Kent on Sunday

www.kentnews.co.uk July 9, 2017

Mid edition No 772

EVENTS

County show shines in sun

Some 80,000 set to flock this weekend for the annual rural extravaganza

HEALTH

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County show, car chaos and the glory of Kent

FOR anyone who tried to get to the Kent County Show on Friday morning, you'll need little reminding of the fragility of our road network when one accident occurs at the wrong time and in the wrong place.

The crash in the early hours on the M20, within sight of the main roundabout used for vehicles to get to and from the Kent Showground at Detling, caused not only long delays for visitors to the event, but was felt around the county.

The London-bound M2, the main alternative artery for the county's road network, also ground to a near halt for much of the morning as everyone sought to avoid getting caught up in the seven-mile queues that stretched back on the M20.

Following the jams back meant congestion in Faversham and even Ashford.

It cannot help but remind us all of the problems we all experienced when Operation Stack stalked us two years ago throughout the summer months - closing parts of the M20 and leaving all other vehicles heading on to roads which struggled under the strain.

Once again we are reminded that it takes little for what we think is a county full of roads to suddenly get very congested indeed.

So let's keep our fingers crossed that is the only headache facing the county show this weekend. The event is as sprawling as ever and ever more gloriously messy - and I don't mean that in a bad way - in terms of what it has to offer. Whether it's vinyl records, ice crush drinks, designer coats for animals, seafood or wooden garden furniture, there truly is something for everyone.

But most of all it reminds us what a diverse place this county is. And that, as ever, is what creates such a vibrant place to live and work. Just, sometimes, not to drive a car in.



Editor **Chris Britcher**

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Snapchat map app fuels fears over child safety

By Emily King
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POLICE and children's charities are urging parents and grandparents to be alert to an update on a popular social media app among youngsters which can pinpoint exactly where they are.

There are concerns the update to the popular Snapchat app could allow people to be stalked or harassed.

Snapchat is hugely popular as a message and photo sharing program which shot to fame by images only displaying for a matter of seconds before they were automatically deleted. Like Facebook and Twitter, users are encouraged to follow friends to exchange messages.

But Snap Map, an add-on just launched, now allows users to see exactly where those in their friends list are, sparking fears they could be used to identify people's homes and regular routes.

A spokesman for the Kent branch of the NSPCC told us: "It's worrying that Snapchat is encouraging under 18s to broadcast their location on the app where it can potentially be accessed by everyone in their contact lists.



CONCERNS: Snap Map can show where friends are in the world - and go all the way down to street level

"With public accounts, this will include those who are not known to the user. This highlights why it's vital children are automatically offered safer accounts on social media to ensure they are protected from unnecessary risks.

"Young people can hide their location using ghost mode, which can be switched on from the camera screen.

"It's important that parents have regular conversations with young people about staying safe online, and making sure that they know how to protect their privacy."

Kent Police said they were aware of the issue and warned parents to monitor the apps their children were using.

A spokesman said: "We would advise all parents and guardians to ensure their children know the dangers of using online apps and take measures to protect them."

A spokesman for Snapchat said: "The safety of our community is very important to us and we want to make sure that all Snapchatters, parents and educators have accurate information about how the Snap Map works.

"The majority of interactions on Snapchat take place between close friends, and location sharing is off by default."

'Honest conversation' needed over funding of social care, warns MP

BRITAIN needs to have "an honest conversation" about how it funds the growing cost of social care, a Kent MP has warned.

Adult social care is the biggest spend for Kent County Council at around 40 per cent of the local authority's overall budget, with approximately £364m to be spent on it this year alone.

Following intense lobbying from both council chiefs and Kent MPs, the government handed County Hall a further £26m cash boost for social care in the last budget, but leader Paul Carter insists it still isn't enough to meet ever-growing demand.

Possible solutions mooted by Cllr Carter in the past included re-allocation of some of the government's foreign aid budget towards social care, and the introduction of a insurance industry product, "attractive for families" that insures against high social care costs.

Speaking in the House of Commons, Faversham and Mid Kent MP Helen Whately told members and health minister Steve Brine the crisis wasn't merely about a lack of government funding, as so often suggested by opposition parties.

She said: "The extra money in the last budget for social care is helping Kent County Council provide more people with access to care, particularly at home, but the cost of social care is going to keep going up.

"Does the minister agree that we need to have an honest conversation as a society about how we fund that growing cost and how we fund it fairly across generations?"

Mr Brine said in response: "It's very easy to take to the streets with a placard saying 'spend more' and listening to the leader of the opposition's response to the Queen's Speech, I think he spent the national debt several times over just in his response. That is absolutely why we need a proper debate and consultation around the long-term funding of this."

A21 flyover opens as part of major road dualling scheme

MOTORISTS got to use a major upgrade on the A21 for the first time on Friday, as work on dualling the key road between Pembury and Tonbridge continues.

The carriageway improvements are seen as a major move towards easing the pressure heading into Tunbridge Wells which is a notorious Kent traffic blackspot.

Drivers using the A21 through the Longfield junction will no longer need to stop at the old Longfield roundabout as the new flyover partially opens, with one lane open in each direction.

It follows the reopening of Tonbridge Road in April and moving traffic on to new structures near Fairthorne village in June. The work is being carried out by Highways England.

Royal visit for graduation ceremony in county town

PRINCESS Eugenie of York was in Maidstone on Friday to take part in the European School of Osteopathy's graduation ceremony.

She presented awards and spoke to graduates in what was her first official engagement since becoming the royal patron of the organisation.

ESO principal Charles Bruford said: ''We are thrilled she was able to take part in the ceremony.

''Graduation marks the culmination of four years of intensive study for our students and heralds the start of their osteopathic careers. Having the princess here to celebrate with us has made the occasion all the more special.''

Princes Eugenie is the daughter of Prince Andrew and Sarah, Duchess of York.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Dealers urged to be vigilant after coins stolen

A COLLECTION of rare coins, worth several thousands of pounds, have been swiped during a burglary in Maidstone this week.

The 2,500 coins included both distinctive coins no longer in circulation and rare recent £2 and 50p pieces.

Also stolen during the raid in Upper Frant Road during Monday afternoon, were a gold ring with diamonds.

Crooks had gained access by forcing the front door.

Police say residents, second-hand dealers and jewellers are urged to be vigilant and should contact Kent Police if they have been offered, or have seen, a collection for sale. Anyone able to help is asked to call 01622 604100, quoting reference YY/018099/17.

MP pleads innocence as he appears in court over 2015 election expenses

By Tom Pyman
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CRAIG Mackinlay has pleaded not guilty to charges relating to his expenses during the 2015 general election.

The Crown Prosecution Service charged the Conservative MP for South Thanet last month with offences under the Representation of the People Act 1983 following an investigation into spending during the campaign two years ago, where he beat then-Ukip leader Nigel Farage.

Mr Mackinlay, who gave his address as Sion Hill, Ramsgate, arrived at Westminster Magistrates' Court on Tuesday with his wife Kati.

The Crown Prosecution Service said the decision to press charges came after an investigation by Kent Police concerning allegations relating to Conservative Party expenditure during the 2015 election campaign and before the June 11 statutory time limit on prosecutions.

Mr Mackinlay faces two counts of making a false election expenses declaration while election agent Nathan Gray, 28, from Hawkhurst, faces one.



PLEA: MP Craig Mackinlay

Campaign director Marion Little, 62, faces three counts related to aiding Mr Mackinlay and Mr Gray in making false declarations.

Speaking after the charge was issued, Mr Mackinlay, who has been backed by Theresa May, said: "Our justice system is underpinned by the presumption of innocence and I am confident that I will be acquitted as I have done nothing wrong and acted honestly and properly whilst a candidate in 2015, and as all candidates do, acted upon advice throughout.

"Clearly this is a shocking decision by the CPS, given that I've done nothing wrong and I am confident that this will be made very clear as the matter progresses.

"I am very disappointed with the way this has been handled by the CPS and Kent Police."

Last month, the 50-year-old held on to his South Thanet seat with an increased majority of 6,387, just one week after it was announced he would be prosecuted.

All three defendants were released on unconditional bail ahead of their next appearance at Southwark Crown Court on August 1.



OFF: Mark Everett leaves in October

Everett retires as director of the Marlowe

AFTER 23 years in the job, the director of Canterbury's Marlowe Theatre, Mark Everett, this week confirmed he is to retire.

A popular figure within the theatre community, he oversaw the complete rebuild of the theatre between 2009 and 2011 into the new state-of-the-art structure it is today.

He will step down in October.

The 65-year-old admitted leaving will be a "wrench" but added: "I believe my timing is right as with the many exciting developments facing the Marlowe, there is an excellent opportunity for someone new to take it into the next phase of its history.

"I have spent half my theatre career here and there have been many extraordinary changes both at the venue and in the cultural life and profile of Canterbury. I am very proud to have played a part in some of these and I am delighted that, as I leave the Marlowe, its local and national reputation has never been higher."

Paula Gillespie will become the acting director for the interim period following his departure. She has been general manager since 2008 and to ensure a seamless handover, will work closely with the outgoing director between now and October.

Stolen identity tax credit fraudster jailed

TWO members of a crime group who attemped to claim £10.2 million in tax credits using stolen identities have been jailed for eight years and nine months.

Adedamola Oyebode, 30, of Lewisham, worked as an events and marketing assistant for the Civil Service Sports Council (CSSC) and in April and June 2009. She accessed the CSSC's password protected membership system and stole personal details of 10,300 members.

She then passed on data to her brother-in-law, Oluwatobi Odeyemi, known as Emmanuel, 34, from Gravesend.

Odeyemi was a key facilitator in the operation, managing the stolen data used to make false tax credit claims.

Of the 10,300 identities stolen, 2,504 were used to make fraudulent claims resulting in £2.4m being paid out. Had the fraud not been uncovered, it is estimated that at least another £7.8m would have been paid.

Tigers in the running for diversity award

THE Second Battalion, The Princess of Wales' Royal Regiment (Two PWRR) has been shortlisted for a diversity award.

Two PWRR, who recruit from Kent and used to be based at Canterbury's Howe Barracks, has been shortlisted for the diverse company of the year award at the National Diversity Awards, taking place on September 8 in Liverpool.

The event "provides recognition for excellence regardless of race, faith, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability and culture".

Over 22,000 nominations were received this year.

The PWRR, also known as The Tigers, specialises in dismounted close combat and must train to fight in all types of terrain.

Currently based in Cyprus, in recent years it has conducted operations across the globe, including in Iraq, Afghanistan, Bosnia.

Commanding officer, lieutenant colonel James Skelton said: "Diversity and inclusivity are the foundations on which our operational success is built."

NSPCC warning as FGM cases reported

THERE have been 20 cases of female genital mutiliation (FGM) identified in the county over the last year, according to figures released by the NHS this week.

The statistics cover from April 2016 to March 2017 and formed part of 9,000 cases identified or treated across the nation. The figures show a slight drop on the year before, but the Royal College of Nursing said the fall was "not fast enough".

A spokesman for children's charity the NSPCC said: "Once more, these figures highlight that FGM continues to affect hundreds of girls and women living in communities across England.

"FGM is child abuse. Despite being illegal for over 30 years, too many people are still being subjected to it and it is right that health services have started to properly record evidence of this horrendous practice.

"Out helpline is contacted more than once a day by people worried about girls who may have suffered, or are at risk of, FGM. Wee need to end the silence that surrounds FGM to better protect children."

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£3.2bn entertainment resort strikes deal to use Essex port

By Chris Britcher
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PLANS: Artist's impression of how the London Resort park could look

THE company behind the proposed multi-billion pound leisure resort on the Swanscombe peninsula has struck a deal with the Port of Tilbury in Essex to use its facilities during the construction of the park.

The London Resort - which confirmed last month it has ended a licensing deal with movie studio Paramount - says a memorandum of understanding has been agreed with the Port of Tilbury London Ltd (POTL) to use the port and its facilities as the main location for storage, loading, discharge, barge operations and other services when construction finally begins on the park.

A formal planning bid will be submitted to the government in November. If the development consent order gets the green light, those behind the project say the park should be open for business by 2022.

Costing some £3.2billion and creating 33,000 jobs during construction and operation, the park needs to get that planning consent before it can confirm the investment needed to actually build the hugely ambitious project.

Touted as eventually being one of the top 10 leisure destinations in the world, funding so far has only been secured to get the scheme through the official planning stage.

Speaking of the port deal, Humphrey Percy, CEO of London Resort Company Holdings, which is driving the project forward, said: "We have always spoken of our commitment to make use of the Thames both during construction and operation.

"Reaching a memorandum of understanding with the Port of Tilbury underlines this commitment and is a further step in delivering a truly global destination."

Charles Hammond, group chief executive from Forth Ports, owner of the port, added: "By using the River Thames, there is not only a reduction in the road miles impact but it also helps to reduce congestion on the road network."

Following the ending of the Paramount licensing rights deal - which KoS understands to have been agreed in principle several months ago - those behind the park say they are now in talks with a host of other major studios to strike big name deals.

Bag 'thrown' sparks hospital evacuation

DOZENS of patients were evacuated from a hospital on Tuesday morning, following reports a bag was thrown into a waiting area.

Police were called to Sittingbourne Memorial Hospital in Bell Road.

A spokesperson said: ''Officers attended the scene and located the bag and the contents were found to be non-suspicious.''

The hospital declined to comment.

Major water works to take up to 20 weeks

A £470,000 scheme to lay a new water main in Ashford begins on July 24 and is expected to take 20 weeks to complete.

South East Water's pipe will run from the Orchard Heights roundabout on the A20 to Fougeres Way. A drop-in session for more information takes place at the Ashford International on July 12 between 4-6pm.

County town survey

MAIDSTONE Borough Council has launched its latest residents' survey and wants to hear what matters to those who live there, to help shape future decision-making.

Run every two years, the survey can be found at www.maidstone.gov.uk/residents-survey.

It takes around 20 minutes to complete, with a closing date of August 20.

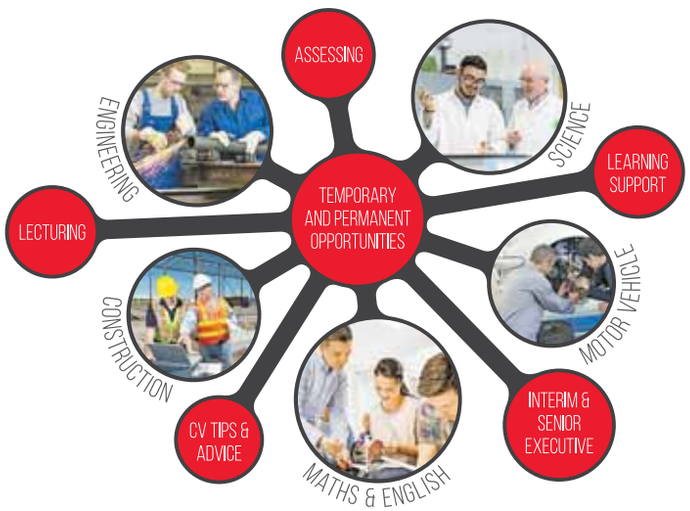
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Guns haul recovered from vehicle bound for county

A MASSIVE guns haul has been recovered from a vehicle on the French side of the Channel Tunnel as it prepared to enter Kent last weekend, police say.

Seventy-nine "viable" weapons were recovered from the trailer of the vehicle stopped at Coquelles on Saturday by Border Force officers.

Two men - a Polish and a Czech national - have been arrested in connection with the raid, which was part of a joint operation by the National Crime Agency (NCA) and detectives from Scotland Yard's organised crime unit.

Graham Gardner, the NCA's deputy director of investigations, said: "Our recent threat assessment highlights that handguns are still commonly favoured by some criminal groups in the UK.



"They may not be the largest firearm, but they are easily concealable and lethal in the hands of anyone prepared to use them."

The 4mm and 6mm weapons and ammunition were found hidden in specially-adapted engine blocks, the NCA said.

Six other Poles - four men and two women - who were arrested at the scene will face no further action.

Board recommends Noye for open prison transfer

ROAD-RAGE killer Kenneth Noye could be moved to an open prison, following a recommendation by the Parole Board.

Noye, now 70, was convicted of murder in April 2000 and sentenced to life with a minimum term of 16 years, after stabbing 21-year-old electrician Stephen Cameron from Dartford to death in an attack on the M25 in 1996.

He was recommended for release a year ago but then-justice secretary Michael Gove blocked the move, much to the relief of the victim's family.

However, Noye then won a High Court appeal in February against a decision blocking him access to an open prison, and Mr Cameron's father, Ken, feared the killer could be released in a matter of months.

A Parole Board spokesman said: "We can confirm that a three-member panel of the Parole Board has not directed the release of Kenneth Noye. However, they have recommended that he be transferred to open conditions. This is a recommendation only and the MOJ will now consider the advice and make the final decision. Under current legislation, Mr Noye will be eligible for a further review within two years.

"The date of the next review will be set by the MOJ."

An MOJ spokesperson added: "The independent Parole Board has made its recommendation. We will carefully consider this and make a decision in due course."

A blooming gold medal

HEAD florist at Leeds Castle, Louise Roots, picked up a prestigious gold award at the RHS Hampton Court Palace Flower Show this week.

She won for her 'fragrant floral interpretation of an English country garden'. The show concludes today (Sunday).

Selling tree fire probed

INVESTIGATIONS are on-going into what caused a fire in trees and bushes in Selling, near Faversham.

Some 50 metres of conifer trees and bushes had to be doused by fire crews after the blaze on Wednesday morning in Grove Road.

Rogue traders warning

A WARNING has been issued over suspected rogue traders operating in Minster on Sheppey.

It follows an OAP being duped out of £500 for urgent roof repairs which were not then carried out.

A similiar incident occured in April.

Five nabbed over drugs

FIVE people in and around Tunbridge Wells have been arrested by police as part of a probe into the importation of drugs with a street value of tens of thousands of pounds into the UK from Spain.

It follows the interception of packages in Birmingham earlier this year.



Get off your phone in car

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

REACTION times when using a mobile phone whilst driving are slower than being at the drink drive limit or whilst smoking cannabis, according to fresh research.

Kent County Council chiefs are reinforcing the importance of people ditching their mobiles whilst driving as they launched a month-long campaign into encouraging safety this week.

A survey by KCC found 73 per cent of people fear the biggest risk to them on the roads is drivers using their phones whilst at the wheel.

The awareness campaign aims to remind drivers that phones cause a huge distraction and that it is a myth to think that it is possible to concentrate fully on two things at once.

Road safety team leader at KCC, Vicky Harvey, said: "The reality is that no two activities can be given equal attention – one task will always be more dominant.

"It's not simply splitting your attention 50:50, it's more like 95:5 with the task seeming the most important taking over – with drivers using a phone that means the call or text completely takes over from the driving.



DANGER: Some 73 per cent of drivers say using your phone at the wheel is the biggest risk on the road

"With a task as important as driving, even just a slip in concentration due to a mobile phone could lead to severe consequences.

"It impairs reaction time, reduces concentration levels, leads to poorer judgment of speed and distance and reduces your field of vision.

"Drivers using mobile phones make the roads less safe for us all."

KCC's research gives strong backing to the continuing need to raise drivers' awareness of the increased risk they place themselves in when using a mobile phone at the wheel and to remind them that Kent Police are actively looking for them.

Chief Inspector Peter Steenhuis from Kent Police's roads policing unit said: "Using a mobile phone at the wheel is very distracting and forms one of the fatal four driving offences; drink/drug driving, not wearing a seat belt, excessive speed and driving while distracted.

"In many cases distracted driving is the cause of serious accidents which could have otherwise been prevented."

Paedo jailed for grooming

A PAEDOPHILE who attempted to groom a teenage boy online has been jailed for 12 months.

James Hope, 39 and of Preston Grove in Faversham, was arrested at the town's train station in September last year following indecent online conversations he had been having with a person he believed to be a 15-year-old child.

In these conversations he discussed and planned sexual activity with the child, not realising it was in fact an adult. Hope was sentenced on Wednesday after previously pleading guilty to one count of grooming.

Security deal for Manston

ONE of the major parties working to re-open Manston Airport has signed a deal for fire and security services on the site.

RiverOak Strategic Partners is consulting with the public ahead of a planned development consent order (DCO) of the land.

The site is curently owned by bosses behind the Stone Hill Park project, which aims to deliver 2,500 homes and leisure facilities.

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MP's fury as offer made to build new hospital site

Canterbury's Rosie Duffield says she does not want to see the site sold off to make way for yet more housing



ANGRY: Labour's newly elected Rosie Duffield says she should have been informed

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

NEWLY-ELECTED Labour MP for Canterbury, Rosie Duffield, has launched a scathing attack after revealing she was not informed of proposals to build a new hospital in the city announced earlier this week.

Ms Duffield, who beat Conservative stalwart Sir Julian Brazier in a stunning general election result last month, said she was not consulted on the proposals by council leader Simon Cook or neighbouring MP Helen Whately.

Bosses at Kent & Canterbury Hospital have come under fire in recent months as hundreds of patients who would normally be taken to its urgent care centre by ambulance are currently being taken instead to emergency departments at other sites in Ashford and Margate.

The decision was a result of another controversial call to move more than half of the junior doctors at the Canterbury site to the William Harvey and QEQM, due to a lack of permanent consultant doctors who oversee and support their training.

News that developer Mark Quinn of Quinn Estates was interested in replacing the existing hospital buildings with new ones was welcomed by Mrs Whately and campaigners at Concern for Health in East Kent (CHEK), if it meant seeing services return to the city.

Ms Duffield, however, says she has reservations over the proposals: "Let me say this clearly, the people of Canterbury, Whitstable and the villages say the Kent & Canterbury Hospital is not for sale.

"I have already had many representations from local constituents seriously concerned about rumours that there has been a long-term plan aimed at selling off the very valuable Kent & Canterbury site.

"On behalf of all my constituents, I shall be rigorously questioning this sudden proposal.

"I fought and won the election locally on a clear platform that NHS assets are not for sale."

The MP said the announcement confirmed "suspicions" many local people have, as East Kent Hospitals Trust looks to roll specialist services currently offered at its three east Kent hospitals into just one site.

CHEK chair, Ken Rogers, told KoS he thought the news was positive and that any plans to have one 'super hospital' would surely have to be based in the cathedral city.

"This is the first part of the jigsaw and very good news because it gives us a base to add support to and negotiate along the way," he said.

"We need to move services back to Canterbury and we know they are looking at one specialist site and we're looking for that to be in the centre of east Kent, which is Canterbury."

The offer from Mr Quinn is to build the shell of a new hospital as well as around 2,000 additional homes on surrounding land.

Part of the land earmarked by the development is allocated for housing in the city council's emerging local plan, but part is not.

This therefore means the proposal would require very careful future consideration in planning terms and council chiefs insist a formal planning application is some way off.

The developer has had early discussions with the council, and these have been outlined to the NHS, while the feasibility of the idea will now be given further examination.

Council leader, Simon Cook, said: "The future of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital is important to all of us, so when proposals like this are put forward, they should be given proper and serious examination.

"Given the number of parties that are involved in this, it will be a complicated process, and more information will be made available in due course."

Accountable officer, Canterbury and Coastal Clinical Commissioning Group, Simon Perks, said: "We are working with the public to develop proposals for our longer-term strategy for healthcare in east Kent, both in and out of hospital, for public consultation next spring.

"It is important to look at all possible options and we will discuss this proposal with Canterbury City Council as part of this work."

Chief executive at the East Kent trust, Matthew Kershaw, added: "We want to provide the best healthcare possible for our patients and we will continue to work closely with Canterbury City Council to look at this and any other potential options, as part of the longer-term strategy for our hospitals."

Mrs Whately, MP for Faversham and Mid Kent, orchesterated a Commons debate on the hospital's future last month and reacted positively to this week's announcement.

"I've been pushing for plan and it's really good to see the city council, the NHS and a developer working together now to make this happen," she said.

"In my conversations with the government about how we might fund a new hospital, it's been made clear to me that a significant local contribution towards the costs is vital, so this could be a really good start.

"I want excellent healthcare for my constituents in east Kent and the best way to get that is with an outstanding local hospital.

"Doctors at a Faversham Health Matters meeting last Friday said that having a specialist hospital at Canterbury – at the centre of east Kent – would be much the best answer for patients and I'll be doing all I can to make it happen.

"The question is how we fund it, and this proposal could make all the difference.

"I have asked health minister, Philip Dunne, for a meeting to formally discuss this offer and how we might turn the dream of a new hospital into a reality."

Ms Duffield was in attendance at the Westminster debate but accused the Tory MP of backtracking on pledges made during the discussion and slammed local chiefs for leaving her in the dark over the plans.

"We do not have problems in our local NHS due to overspending," she said.

"Far from it, these problems are caused by underfunding.

"Until we have a government committed to funding the NHS sustainably, and ending the current scandalous waste of NHS money on endless 'commissioning' exercises resulting in fragmentation and hiving services off to profiteers, we will not have the kind of long term future we want for our local hospital and NHS services.

"Local people will be angered that this announcement by Tories Simon Cook and Helen Whately is simply naked party politicking contradicting her statement to the House she wanted 'cross party' work to save the hospital.

"Neither of them had the courtesy of informing the local MP of these proposals. That's simply not good enough."



THREAT: Part of the existing site of the Kent & Canterbury Hospital

Pressure is rising as MPs urged to help blood battle

Victims of the contaminated blood scandal have written to all the county's MPs calling on them to help get justice

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

KENT victims of the contaminated blood scandal have this week written to all MPs in the county calling on them to unite to demand a public inquiry into what has been described as "the worst treatment disaster in the history of the NHS".

The move comes as pressure continues to grow on the government to finally deliver some form of justice to the thousands of innocent victims who continue to suffer after being given contaminated blood in the 1970s and 80s.

Prime minister Theresa May hinted there may be a slight shift in her previously tough stance when on Wednesday she confirmed health ministers "will look at any new evidence that is brought forward" following a string of claims over what officials knew at the time about the issue.

The vast majority of victims were haemophiliacs. They suffer an inherited condition which prevents their blood from clotting naturally. In order to prevent life-risking bleeds, they were treated with Factor VIII - a blood product pooled from a variety of donors. By being administered with this, their blood would clot, naturally, for a brief period.

However, given the demand for the product, many drug companies sourced their blood for use in the product by paying donors. Thus prisoners and drug addicts in the US would donate. Their infected blood - carrying the likes of hepatitis C, which attacks the liver, and HIV - was then used in treatments, passing the diseases on.

In this country, the NHS administered the product which left more than 4,500 infected. Some 2,400 have subsequently died. Many survivors continue to be hugely affected by their illness.

After years of increasing noise about the scandal, there does finally seem to be some sign the government may find the relentless and increasing pressure too much to bear.

That will have intensified after all Kent MPs received a letter from the wife of victim Steve Dymond, 61, from Broadstairs. A haemophiliac who contracted hepatitis C as a result of treatment received when he was a child, the couple have been vocal campaigners.

In her letter, Mr Dymond's wife, Su Gorman, said: "We have received excellent support from our local MP Craig Mackinlay, and we are in agreement with his view this cannot be a specifically constituency matter.

"There are victims in many constituencies who do not feel able to come forward and make their voices heard because of the continuing stigma and shame associated with conditions such as HIV/AIDS and hepatitis C. Hence bringing our renewed demand for an official inquiry to your attention.

"We hope you will join the cross party support in commending the urgent need for this inquiry in the interests of truth and justice for the haemophiliac families victim of the contaminated blood scandal."

Last month, a petition was handed in to Number 10 reiterating the call for an inquiry and for a full and fair compensation package to be agreed.

Having ruled out a public inquiry in the past, and failing to respond to calls from victims for compensation payments, the prime minster found herself quizzed again during prime minister's questions in the House of Commons on Wednesday.

Responding to a question by former Labour minister Diana Johnson who quoted former Leigh MP Andy Burnham - who described the scandal as involving a "criminal cover up on an industrial scale" - in pushing for an inquiry, the PM said: "Serious allegations have been made, and ministers at the Department of Health will obviously look at information that has been brought to the House. We are providing more compensation than any previous government, and we committed £125 million extra funding last July for those affected by the contaminated blood tragedy. The Department of Health will look at any new evidence that is brought forward."

Health ministers have previously resisted calls for a fresh inquiry into contaminated blood, which has already been subject to two official reviews.

Speaking to KoS this week, Steve Dymond said: "Speaking in the aftermath of the Grenfell Tower fire, communities secretary Saijid Javid assured that government intended 'to seek justice for those people who have been failed. This tragedy should weigh on the consciousness of every person tasked with making a decision so this can never happen again'.

"The same words could equally apply to the many haemophiliac victims of the contaminated blood scandal and their families - if Mrs May is sincere in her manifesto pledge then she will set up an inquiry into this historic wrongdoing.

"According to reports this week, the government is being dragged in front of the High Court acccused of knowingly using contaminated blood products on haemophiliacs and conducting illegal experiments on haemophiliac patients including young children.

"It is time the incision into the very heart of the haemophilia community made by the reckless and deliberate dispensing of contaminated Factor VIII concentrates to one of the most vulnerable communities, should be examined in the cold forensic light of an inquiry.

"The betrayal and lies heaped upon haemophiliacs by successive governments and Whitehall officials is a national disgrace.

"That I have been poisoned by my treatment, betrayed by those who had sworn to protect me and been the object of calumny by Department of Health officials for asking that truth and justice be accorded to this damaged community has driven me to a horrific place, into the very heart of darkness."



PROTESTS: Campaigners outside Westminster last year calling for their voice to be heard. Theresa May, below.



VICTIMS: Ramsgate's Lee Stay, left, and Broadstairs' Steve Dymond

KOS COMMENT

FOR two years this newspaper has sought to raise awareness of the contaminated blood scandal.

We have worked with victims who have tirelessly beaten the drum asking for fair treatment in terms of compensation and answers to the questions as to just how it could ever have happened. For many, they do this while riding a rollercoaster of emotions and tackling their own health issues.

Despite setback after setback, they have refused to step back - instead continuing to shout loudly until someone in power hears their voices.

In those two years, the momentum to their calls has risen and fallen like waves on a shore. But now the tidal force appears unstoppable. Their clear demonstration of failure by the state cannot be ignored any longer.

There must come a time when even the PM decides she has fielded enough questions on the topic that she makes the move to launch the inquiry it deserves.

That time should be now.



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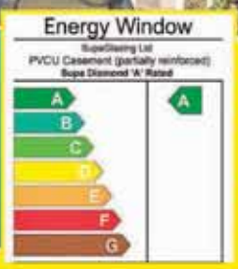


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KOS/15

Sun shines as thousands head to the county show

Despite a major car crash causing chaos on the roads on Friday and added security checks in place, organisers are expecting bumper crowds as environment minister urges us all to back our local food and drink producers ahead of Brexit

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

MORE than 80,000 people are expected to descend on the Kent Showground in Detling this weekend for one of the traditional highlights of the county's calendar.

The Kent County Show opened its gates on Friday, bathed in sunshine and blue skies, and runs until Sunday night.

Forecasters say the weather will remain dry and warm throughout the event.

Organised by the Kent County Agricultural Society, those attending will be treated to the traditional diet served up by the show which celebrates the county's rural lifestyle.

Alongside displays of locally grown food and drink, will be livestock, displays, demonstrations and plenty more besides.

However, many of those heading to the show on Friday found themselves caught up in horrendous traffic jams which had a knock-on effect to many key arteries across the county, following a crash in the early hours on the M20.

One man was airlifted to a London hospital following the crash between two lorries on the London-bound section of the motorway just next to junction seven - the turn-off for Detling and the route taken by most show traffic.

The London-bound carriageway was completely closed for more than nine hours to allow the lorries and the debris left behind to be cleared away, as well as repairs to the central reservation.

At one stage, traffic queues stretched back seven miles, delaying many exhibitors and visitors from reaching the showground.

As traffic during the morning rush hour attempted to avoid the area, the M2 also slowed to a snail's pace.

Lucy Hegarty, show manager said, "Despite the major road traffic incident on the M20, we have had good numbers of visitors come through the gates on Friday. The good weather has helped encourage people to join us."

Organisers were shy of confirming advance ticket sales this year, describing them as "good", but expected a buzz on social media as crowds flocked to encourage visitors to the show over the weekend.

Those attending have been advised to arrive a little earlier than normal due to heightened security checks.

All bags coming into the site are being searched and there is an increased security presence.



BUSY: Signs point to the host of attractions lined up at this year's big showcase event

Kevin Attwood, chairman of the Kent County Agricultural Society, explained: "The additional security at the entrances is working well and we hope that our visitors understand that we have taken advice from official channels to ensure that we are being responsible in the wake of recent terror attacks.

"We also advise our visitors to be responsible in this heat, wear sunscreen and drink plenty of water. All water on the site is mains fed and perfectly fine to drink unless otherwise stated. We also suggest that dog owners make sure their animals stay hydrated and cool whilst at the show."

Open from 8am to 6pm every day, the show this year boasts more than 400 exhibitors and trade stands and over 300 competitions, activities and displays.

Adds a spokesman for the event: "For those who have never attended the show before, it is a showcase event for farming, countryside and rural life. It brings together the very best of Kent with animals and food, fun and excitement and above all a sense of what the Garden of England has to offer."



COLOURFUL: The show features everything from engines to fairground rides



Certainly on Friday morning, as crowds began to gather, the show's huge sprawling attractions looked set to do brisk business.

With stalls selling everything from hand-crafted wooden sculptures to outdoor hot tubs, and plenty of animals to see, in addition to a fairground and large displays of classic cars, motorbikes and agricultural machinery, there will be plenty to entertain families.

Environment minister Therese Coffey attended on the Friday morning to listen to the concerns of farmers as the nation braces itself for the uncertainty caused by Brexit.

While show organisers were swift to point out they were a non-political organisation, there was much discussion as to just how leaving the EU will impact on an industry which relies heavily on European subsidies and a migrant workforce.

The Conservative minister explained: "My visit came at a crucial time for the county - and country's – producers and growers.

Continued on page 16



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Continued from page 15

"Leaving the EU presents an unprecedented opportunity to shape a new system, one that works for our food and farming industry - and we are determined to make a success of it.

"We are clear that we will not compromise on our nation's high standards of animal welfare and environmental protection, and we will always preserve our proud and varied local farming traditions.

"Kent is a shining example of why it is vital we do just that. From fine fruits and fine English wine, to traditional farm fresh turkeys and Whitstable oysters, the county is home to some great British food. With quality local ingredients and time-honoured methods, these products are testament to the British brand.

"With EU exit negotiations underway, the government is determined now more than ever to get the best possible deal for our farmers. We want to ensure a thriving market to help the country grow more, sell more and export more of this great British produce.

"But understandably, such a great period of change may also bring some concerns.

"Nationally, we have already provided as much certainty as possible for our farmers by committing the same level of support until the end of this Parliament. We also announced a future Agriculture Bill in the Queen's Speech that will give Kent's food businesses the support needed to grow more, sell more and export more of the finest produce this county has to offer.

"As we shape that future, my colleagues and I at Defra want to hear as many views as possible from our farmers, growers and food manufacturers about how government can help their industries thrive.

"That's why on Friday, as well as celebrating Kent's success, I also met many farmers and growers, as well as local representatives from the National Farmers Union and Country Land and Business Association to understand local views. We want to listen to everyone who has an interest in the future of British food and farming - whether local or national - to help us as we prepare our new approach.

"At this vital time, I also want to call on the people of Kent to continue to champion your local farmers and producers.

"With thousands of visitors passing through the showground every year, the Kent County Show is living proof of the vast support that already exists. I want to encourage everyone to buy and enjoy even more brilliant Kent-grown produce. Through this, we can all help guarantee a thriving industry for generations to come."

Tickets for the event are available on the gate. Adult tickets cost £23 and children are £7. Family tickets cost £50.







POPULAR: Livestock is a regular big draw at the Kent Showground, while there are also classic car, coach, tractor and bike displays as well as a number of demonstrations including the chance to see what it is like to be a bee-keeper.

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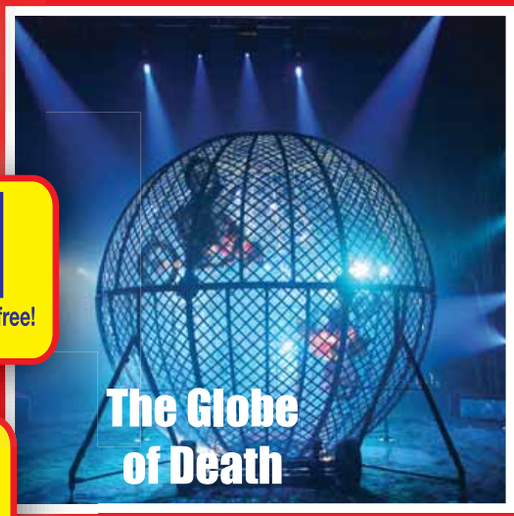
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KOS/15



Teeing up success for the future

Ahead of the Open, **Tom Pyman** takes a look at how the next generation are falling in love with golf

AS The Open golf championship returns next weekend, confidence is growing in the county that Kent could soon produce a player capable of winning the famous Claret Jug.

The event rolls into Lancashire next Sunday before it returns to Royal St George's in Sandwich in 2020, by which time sports chiefs are hoping even more young talent will be beginning to emerge.

In Bearsted's Matt Ford, Kent has a regular on the European Tour, but arguably nobody to really challenge the elite at showpiece tournaments like The Open.

However, a number of initiatives are underway across the county to help break down typical barriers to the sport, and encourage a whole new generation of young golfers.

In 2000, the Golf Foundation launched a 'mini' version of the sport specifically for use by young children in primary and junior school, known as Tri-Golf.

This involved developing youngster-friendly equipment that has proved to be popular with children, affordable for schools, and easy for teachers to use.

In addition, resources giving ideas for games and activities that can be linked with the PE and educational curriculum were produced, and a three-hour teacher training workshop was introduced.

All of this has led to an explosion in the amount of golf activity taking place in primary and junior schools.

The Golf Foundation's development manager for Kent and the south east, Andy Wright, told KoS last year he hoped Danny Willett's Masters triumph would help spark further interest but says recent growth can be attributed to a number of different factors.

"Participation numbers have been good but there are a number of factors, not just Danny's success," he said this week.

"You could say if he had kept the ball rolling the impact would have been even greater but the game is continuing to grow and more and more clubs are getting kids involved."

Golf often has to overcome the stereotype that it is only for those living in rural, affluent areas, and so the foundation has also introduced schemes like StreetGolf, where kids hone skills by chipping balls into basketball hoops, for example.

Mr Wright says the project encourages creativity, which can then be transferred onto the course.

England Golf is the governing body of the sport at an amateur level and club support officer for Kent, Charles Molony, also believes the drive to increase enthusiasm among youngsters is proving successful.

He told KoS: "In Kent we have got golf clubs that are being proactive and changing offers to suit the changing lifestyle of people and offer more value for money.

"Some are quicker to change and stay ahead of the curve, but some are stuck in the Stone Age a bit and say 'we've always done this, it worked 20 years ago' - my job is to try and change that.

"Up until last year, there was a two per cent decline in numbers but now we've stabilised it.

"Golf is perceived as a rule-orientated and competitive sport – if you go into a club there are competition boards everywhere.

"There may still be that perception but if you call up a golf club, nine out of ten of them will be an academy membership or trial membership.

"It's about getting that person on the conveyor belt. People are not going to make a big jump from temptation to full membership – you have to offer little breadcrumbs."

Some youngsters, however, are throwing themselves into the game from a young age, such as Matt Ford's seven-year-old daughter, Teagan, who is hoping a Masters for ladies will be established in the coming years.

She has attended Tudor Park in Bearsted from the age of two, and is a junior club member and a regular face at its Junior Golf Camps, which are hosted during school holiday times.

Although the camps are attracting more girls these days, in the past, Teagan often found herself the only one playing alongside boys, but that didn't faze her.

"I don't mind playing with boys and I like to show them that it is not just boys that can play golf," she said.

As for her father, he is not too far away from being able to dine at the sport's top table, according to Mr Molony, who emphasised how small the line between success and failure can be at a professional level.



TOP: Darren Clarke wins at Sandwich in the 2011 Open. Pic: ADY KERRY

"I don't know why we haven't got anyone in the top 100 in the world, but it's just very competitive, and the margins at that level are so fine," he said.

"What Matt is doing differently to someone like Justin Rose, it's probably a shot per round - that's the difference between being in the top 10 and winning millions of pounds and just getting by."

Steve Wolfe is CEO of Kent Sports Trust Foundation, which aims to increase participation across the county, and also hopes to see a star figure emerging from the county in the coming years.

He said: "For a county with a deep and rich association with golf, most notably being home to three current or former Open Championship venues, it is strange and puzzling that Kent hasn't produced a top-class golfer.

"And with almost 100 courses in total in the Garden of England, we aren't short of facilities here.

"Having had meetings with Charles Molony, we know first-hand that the sport's authorities are trying to engage with young people and encourage the next generation to pick up a set of clubs via the Golf Express initiative and free community sessions on Margate beach, for example.

"Success breeds success to a large extent, though, so once Kent does produce its own version of Justin Rose or Danny Willett, a crop of suitably inspired international-class talent could well emerge from within the county.

"Sporting success on the whole is cyclical, of course, so fingers crossed that golf's answer to Dina Asher-Smith, Sam Billings, Tom Ransley, and Ashley Jackson here in Kent is just around the corner."



BACK: Billy Monger is back on track to resume his impressive racing career despite his horrific crash

Brave Billy is back behind the wheel after horror crash

Teen racer who lost his legs just months ago raced again at Kent track this week

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A TEENAGE racing driver who lost both legs in a horrific single-seater crash just 11 weeks ago was back in a racing car on Tuesday.

Courageous Billy Monger returned to the cockpit of the racer at former F1 Grand Prix circuit Brands Hatch in West Kingsdown.

It was less than three months after sustaining life-changing injuries in the high-speed crash at Donington.

Billy, from Surrey and nicknamed 'Billy the Whizz', had both of his lower legs amputated following the incident in a British Formula 4 race just days before his 18th birthday.

Brand Hatch said a campaign to raise funds for his rehabilitation has raised almost £1million and at the same time he has been getting used to driving with hand controls behind the wheel of a specially-adapted golf cart.

Billy's return to the track has been with the assistance of Team BRIT, which helps disabled drivers and injured servicemen to compete in motorsport.

He drove a Fun Cup endurance racer, with styling inspired by the classic VW Beetle and similar power to a performance hatchback, using hand controls fitted to the steering wheel.

Team BRIT founder Dave Player, a





ADAPTED: The specially adapted interior of the racing car



former Royal Engineer in the army, said: "Our aim is to be able to have drivers of all different disabilities compete on a level playing field.

"We've designed the world's most advanced set of hand controls and this week Billy was testing a new type of steering wheel.

"The whole idea of this is, first of all, to give Billy his first time out on track, and secondly to get his race licence back to help him get back on his journey."

Billy added: "It's been really good just to get back behind the wheel.

"Massive thanks to Team BRIT for sorting this out, I can't wait to be back again.

"Team BRIT have got two steering wheels for me to try out. I've decided which one I prefer, now it's just about perfecting the technique so that when I come back I'm up the front winning races."

Billy's ambition now is to compete in the world-famous Le Mans 24 Hours, and he's teamed up with Frenchman Fréderic Sausset, who raced at last year's event despite losing both arms and legs through an illness.

"The company that Frederic set up to get to Le Mans in 2020 is a great project," Billy said.

"Although the budget's not fully there yet, it will be a great opportunity for me. It was inspirational meeting him; he's a really nice guy and down to earth.

"The opportunity that may happen in the future with him would be great, but I'm not 100 per cent committed to anything yet, we're just looking at different options to see what's best for me in the future," added Billy, who is aiming to make his racing comeback next year.

"There's a lot of work involved in what's going on with my own rehabilitation, but that's all going well, so hopefully we'll be back out on track soon."

The teenager also had time to thank his many fans and followers, who have overwhelmed him with their help.

"It's been unbelievable and inspirational," he said. "People keep saying I'm the inspiration but I think all these people coming together to support someone who has gone through an accident like this, they're the true inspiration.

"Massive thanks to everyone who gave me support and I don't think I'd be where I am today without this, so it's been incredible."

His return at Brands was similiar to that of former Formula One and US CART racer Alex Zanardi.

He too lost both legs in an horrific crash in 2001. However, he fought back to compete and win gold in the 2012 Paralympic Games in London. He won two golds in the paracycling events, staged at the Kent circuit.



Crowds flock as Mote Park has a its very own Big Day Out

Festival season continues as a host of big names performed in Maidstone last weekend, with next year's event all set too

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ORGANISERS of Maidstone's Big Day Out family festival have already confirmed next year's date - just days after thousands flocked for a party in the park.

Mote Park played host to the open-air event last Saturday, and were treated to a line-up which included the likes of dance troupe Diversity, pop group Atomic Kitten, X Factor star Louisa Johnson and Queen tribute act, Supreme Queen.

During Atomic Kitten's set, singer and TV star Kerry Katona introduced her 15-year-old daughter Molly Mc-Fadden on to the stage to sing with her.

The teenager is set to move to Ireland soon to move in with the parents of her father - Westlife singer Brian McFadden.

Billed as a family-friendly event, there were also appearances by a host of children's TV stars and colourful characters roamed the site.

CBeebies' Mr Bloom plus Bing and Flop, superheroes, and characters from Beauty and the Beast, and Frozen were among those keeping the children entertained.

Many of the problems experienced last year, when some complained of big queues and lax security, had been ironed out and the weather was kind. Last year those attending saw heavy rain.

Those behind the festival, which this year was reduced from two days to just one, hailed the event a success and said all lessons learned will be acted upon to ensure the 2018 event is even better.

It has confirmed that will take place on Saturday, July 14, 2018.

It has also ruled out any repeat of gripes just weeks before the show when a number of heavily discounted tickets - up to 70 per cent off the normal price - were sold via the website Groupon.

A spokesman said: "No secondary discount ticket site will be used for 2018.

"We'd like you to know that we've taken all of your feedback on board to make 2018 even more of an improvement."

As well as the extension to the time Bounce Land is open, the attraction itself is being extended to "make it the biggest inflatable park in the UK".

And the site itself will be enlarged "for your comfort" and cut down crowding. A fancy dress theme is another addition.

Tickets for next year's day out are already on sale.



TRIBUTE: Supreme Queen recreated magic of Queen

Organisers urged potential visitors to book early: "The later you leave it, the more you will pay for your ticket. The ticket price will increase for next year's event to enable us to add more content to the event, as well as increasing the size of the stage and site."











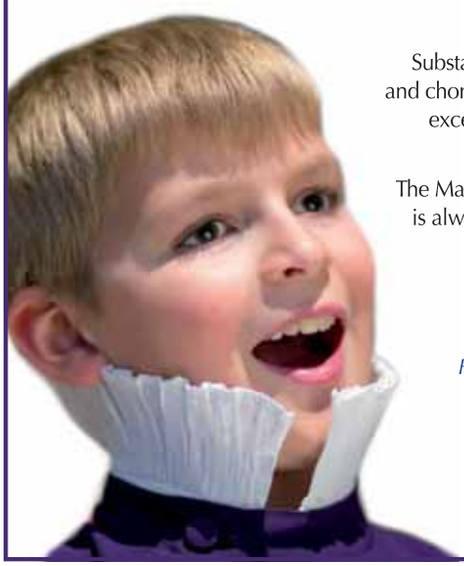
CLOCKWISE: Diversity, Louisa Johnson, Atomic Kitten and the big crowds at Mote Park's A Big Day Out. All pictures: ANDY ARCHER

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Louise Milliken explains the benefits of Origina® for a stunning new look ...

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Photograph by Lee Gordon



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Dreaming of a happy and profitable future



By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

AFTER the traumas of last year, Dreamland needs this to be a long glorious summer of sun, fun, smiles and, perhaps most significantly, revenue generation.

Or, at least, demonstrate sufficiently the foundations for such money-making to be made over the coming years.

While few would publicly say so, its very future will hang precariously in the balance should the considerable investment - some £25 million - made prior to its re-opening at the end of May, and the on-going planned improvement works, fail to turn the site around.

But the difference from this year to last is already significant.

Gone is the ugly scaffolding which once acted as its 'welcoming' vision to those looking to have fun and spend money. Gone is the entrance fee which acted as a significant deterrent for many for whom an early visit did little to encourage a return.

As they exited, in came some key additions. Firstly, the number of rides has increased with some white knuckle additions to appeal to the young and the young at heart.

For those who prefer to watch others have fun, then there's now a 'tree-top' bar where you can enjoy a drink while looking out over the park. There are art installations, paint has clearly been applied and, simply, it looks like considerably more effort to appeal to people to part with their hard earned cash has been made.

The entrance now has the original 1930s Cinque Ports pub up and running again - a far more welcoming site than tarpaulin and metal poles.

Ziggy's, just beside the main entrance, is also welcoming visitors, with its roof-top bar likely to do brisk business if the sun shines this summer season.

But surely the biggest change - and something which moulds the heritage aspect of the park with the new - is the introduction of a 15,000 capacity outdoor live arena.

Visit when there's not an event on, and it doubles up as a pleasant area for a picnic. On show days, then the stage comes alive and the music blasts out.

It pulled off a major coup when the Gorillaz performed a sell-out inaugural show in June. Perhaps more importantly, the feared traffic chaos around the town during the day failed to materialise, leaving many to encourage more similiar events.

And certainly live music is a key component of the park. The Hall by the Sea - a 2,000-capacity venue in the corner of the park is now welcoming acts again.

With a heritage which includes the Rolling Stones and The Who, in late September it will host the By The Sea Festival which features the likes of The Libertines. Again, another major booking for the venue.

Dreamland still isn't perfect and it still isn't going to emulate its hey-day. Things were, let us not forget, different back then. Theme parks were small, our expectations more modest. The likes of Thorpe Park, Legoland and Alton Towers have made Margate's offering tiny in comparison.

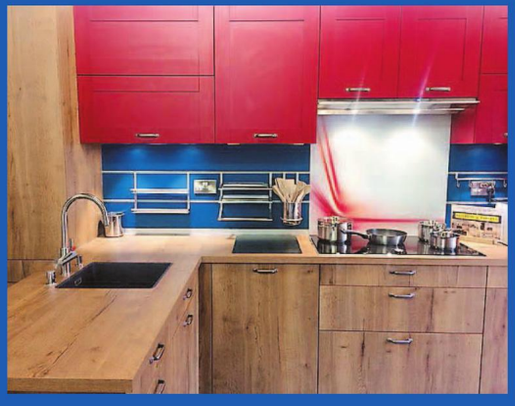
But it is moving in the right direction.

The aim of the improvements work was to get the park in the best possible state. That will, almost inevitably, mean it being sold to an operator who can see not just the potential but also build upon what is now there.

Dreamland is looking far more secure today and for the benefit of the town's economy, we should all keep our fingers crossed that stays the situation.

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Controversial parking review set for U-turn?



By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

PLANS to scrap a controversial 135 per cent hike in hourly car parking rates at popular beach front car parks in Thanet are to be discussed later this month.

An extraordinary cabinet meeting has been set for Tuesday, July 18 where Thanet District Council (TDC) chiefs will assess whether to reduce charges for the first hour at car parks such as Minnis Bay, near Birchington and Albion Street in Broadstairs, following a widespread public backlash.

Hundreds of locals have signed a petition against the hike introduced back in April, which saw parking charges rise from £1.60 an hour to £4 in some areas, with daily charges rising from £8.50 to £12.

There was also fury over plans to introduce parking along the seafront at Minnis Bay, sparking fears from traders it could put people off coming to the area. The spaces are currently free (pictured).

Roy Irving, who launched the petition, said: "Thanet depends on tourism and visitors. To increase car parking charges at main car parks throughout Thanet to the level proposed for 2017 will deter visitors and have a bad effect on the number of visitors and income for Thanet.

"Businesses will also suffer from reduced visitor numbers. High street businesses will also loose local trade as people will not pay £4 to park and shop, but drive to Westwoood Cross where they can park for free.

"I see no justification for a first hour parking fee of £4."

South Thanet MP Craig Mackinlay also joined the chorus of criticism, saying: "Our beaches are one of our greatest assets and should be for everyone to enjoy at a reasonable cost.

"Yet by raising parking charges and not improving facilities, business owners will feel they are being punished.

"Joss Bay and other local businesses should not be priced out. These new charges will prevent local people from enjoying their facilities and this will impact on our tourist industry. It highlights the short sighted approach by TDC."

Indeed, Sally Gridley, owner of the Joss Bay Café, said the changes "exclude locals from their own beach".

In response to the backlash, a council committee met at the end of May to discuss the petition, and the possibility of reducing the charge.

During the meeting, chiefs agreed that revenue generated from parking charges should be directed to the same service in order to improve it and that any surplus should be carried forward to the following year rather than be allocated to the general fund.

Members also felt increased parking charges would discourage visitors from outside the district to visit the area's attractions and local residents would also be discouraged for the same reason and urged the cabinet to "have a rethink", which now appears to be on the cards.

However, if the town hall does perform a U-turn, councillors would need to consider recommending alternative revenue sources to compensate for the loss of income.

Council leader Chris Wells said: "The overview and scrutiny panel recently made recommendations following a petition of 829 signatures on increases to summer parking charges in five car parks.

"They considered a proposal from officers to introduce a compromise position which would lower the charge for the first hour as this had generated such a strong public response.

"Cabinet will be meeting shortly to reconsider this matter in light of these discussions and to consider the officer recommendation.

"I have every reason to believe when the cabinet papers are published the council and residents will be happy with the results."

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Taking off with echoes of its war past

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WHILE there remains much debate over the future of Manston Airport, one corner of the site is assured a future.

The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum has become a reminder of the site's vital Battle of Britain heritage and a honeypot to those wanting to learn more about the aircraft which played such a vital role in defending our skies from the German Luftwaffe.

The globally famous RAF fighter planes, the Supermarine Spitfire Mk XVI and the Hawker Hurricane IIC, are both housed at the museum - along with a host of other aviation attractions.

Explains manager Matthijs Demedts: "We have a new homefront exhibition that came in last year, detailing the stories of the many civilians who supported The Few during the Second World War.

"We have also launched an appeal to raise funds to install a 1/1 scale Spitfire cockpit which will feature an immersive simulator experience where visitors can 'fly' a Spitfire using authentic Second World War style controls.

"In order to install this we need to raise £15,000, of which we have already secured £5,000 in donations from supporters and stakeholders.

"This is a very important aspect for the museum and will create an astonishing attraction that will appeal to so many.

"We already have what is probably the most significant RAF Second World War collection this side of London as we not only have original warplanes but we also have the full details of the men who flew them and specific history pertaining to RAF Manston.

"We have an original Hawker Hurricane Mk IIC fighter, which, like our Spitfire Mk XVI is on long term loan from the RAF Museum in Hendon.

"It's currently displayed in the colours of squadron leader Danny le Roy de Vivier, a Belgian pilot who flew a Hurricane of the same appearance over Dieppe in 1942. Our Spitfire was flown by several pilots of RCAF 403 squadron and it shot down four enemy war planes."

While efforts continue to get planes flying again at Manston, the land is



currently owned by the developers behind the Stone Hill Park (SHP) project which intends to transform the site into houses.

Mr Demedts said: "I cannot provide comment on SHP or other organisations.

"That said, the museum is a freehold, as the freehold was gifted by SHP, and is secure for the future.

"Our collection is vital, especially as, sadly, Second World War veterans are rapidly dwindling as time marches on and it's up to us to ensure their memory is kept alive so that future generations learn and understand the Second World War.

"In keeping our collection together and accessible, it is my personal, albeit somewhat naïve hope, that our museum can, in some small way, play a role in teaching future generations that large scale world wars are never a solution to the world's many problems."

He said: "We are housing an ever increasing number of items of memorabilia and artefacts, both military and civil.

"They are mainly from the Second World War, but include other eras too.

"Our Spitfire Hall was officially opened in June 1981 and cost some £30,000 with the money coming from voluntary fund raising efforts and donations by the people of Thanet.

"The Hurricane Hall was officially opened by Dame Vera Lynn in October, 1988, to house the Hurricane LF751 and that cost over £100,000, being appreciably larger than the companion building.

"Entrance to both is free, but it is always nice when visitors are able to take advantage of the shop. The car and coach parks are also free.

"The museum only survives on generous donations from the public."

The Spitfire and Hurricane Memorial Museum is open seven days a week from 10-4pm during the winter and 10-5pm during the summer.

For more information, get in touch by calling 01843 821 940, email to enquiries@spitfiremusuem.org.uk or visit them at www.spitfiremuseum.org.uk





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HISTORIC: The unmistakable growl of a Spitfire will be heard in the skies of Kent again this weekend at the Battle of Britain Air Show

Aerodrome revs up engine for summer of big shows

Starting this weekend, Headcorn takes to the skies with spectacular line-up

THE skies above Headcorn will be alive with the sound of Battle of Britain aircraft as the first of a string of popular summer shows at the venue take place.

The venue will play host to three major events - all of which will have special appeal to those with a military fascination.

The Battle of Britain Air Show runs across this weekend at Headcorn Aerodrome near Ashford, and features a host of flying experiences, choreographed air displays and a host of ground-based entertainment.

Marking the 77th anniversary of the famous aerial battle which raged across the skies of Kent and the Channel in 1940 as the RAF fought to hold back wave upon wave of German aircraft seeking to gain dominance of the skies, the event will feature a host of aircraft involved.

On display will be Spitfires and Hurricanes, along with other aircraft of the period, including the Tiger Moth, Harvard T6 and the rare Messerschmitt ME 109.

Spectacular displays in the air will take place between 1.30pm and 5pm and is organised by Aero Legends.

The firm is also offering a host of pleasure flight opportunities, providing the chance to fly a Tiger Moth, take a trip across the Kent countryside in a RAF de Havilland Devon, or fly in an aircraft as it goes wing-to-wing in the air with a Spitfire.

For those who prefer their entertainment more land-based, there will be a funfair and a host of stalls available too.

There's a military theme at the Headcorn site later this summer too as the popular Combined Ops Military and Air Show returns across the weekend of August 19-20.

The event has a variety of vintage and modern aircraft displays, on the ground and in the air.

Among the highlights will be a parachute display from The Tigers - the Kent-based Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment - who will be 'dropping in' to the arena.

Their displays include smoke trailing, flags flying, and all while performing formations both in the air and under the parachute.

In addition, there will be the RAF Battle of Britain Memorial Flight and a chance to see a mighty Chinook helicopter.

The family event also includes military vehicles, living history re-enactment groups, arena events, military stalls, children's entertainment and food stalls.

Rounding off the trio of events this summer will be the Southern Model Show on September 9-10.

Staged in association with the Maidstone Model Flying Club, it promises to showcase an array of model aircraft, helicopters, ships, tank and other vehicles.

In addition, there will be a range of water vehicles in a large tank, while for those looking to nab a bargain, there will be a bring and buy stand as well as a whole host of arts and crafts equipment on sale.

Tickets for all three events are available now - the Battle of Britain Air Show will have tickets available on the gate this weekend.

For more details and to book at any of the shows visit headcorn-events.co.uk.

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SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

JANE, attractive 50 something lady. I love to cook and care for my man. Is that you? ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427651**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

SONIA, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427647**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365**

JANE 55yrs romantic homely lady, hoping to meet a man for outings, to cook and care for. You won't be sorry if you call. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427645**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979**

HELLO I'm 47yrs old, I'm a curvy brunette, varied interests with GSOH, hard working and solvent. WLTM gent taller than me, 5ft3. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427639**

HARRIET 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205**

ATTRACTIVE Irish lady, 34yrs seek gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427637**



First 3 txts free. All messages received thereafter £1.50. You may receive up to 4 messages for each message you send. Text STOP to 63222 to exit at any time. Minimum 7 messages must be sent before contact details can be exchanged. Service is not computer generated. Messages are responded to by real users. No meetings guaranteed. If arranging a meeting choose a public space & do not give personal details to people you have not met. Service provided by No Goats Ltd. Help: 0207 7207130 email: ohdear@nogoats.com

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or email us at **support@jmediauk.co.uk**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851**

PAMELA early 70s with softly rounded body! If you are a tender male with passion then call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427635**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533**

HELLO I am a black lady, 60yrs young with a great personality and lovely looks. Call if you are looking to meet someone like me, or text me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427585**



Simply tell us your age and location and we will match you immediately!
TEXT **LOVE** to **89990**
or call **0906 500 5757**
0906 calls £1.55 per min plus your phone company's access charge 89990 cost £1.50 per msg. To STOP text stop to 89990 Service provided by JMediaUK Ltd RH16 3EG For Help call 0207 720 7130

PIA, Asian lady, 57yrs, very caring and a little subservient and quiet. I am a good cook and loyal friend. Pls text me if you are kind man 55+ **Text Only. Mailbox 4013378**

DEBBIE, young looking 49yrs, pretty brunette lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427611**

NATALIA, black beauty! I am late 50s but still fit with a good figure and lovely skin and eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gentleman, older than myself for chats, maybe more. **Text Only. Mailbox 4107799**

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427649**

JULIE, 68yrs but very fit and young looking. Married to an older gent so hoping to meet someone much much younger. Text Me. **Text Only: 4193435**

BECKY, 30 something lady. Full of laughter, very open minded and discreet. Hoping to meet similar minded gent who is older than me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427495**

MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427493**

FELICITY, "my friends call me posh" I'm not really. Call me to see. I'm 58yrs, curvy, blonde extensions and very good for my age. ACA. **Text Only. Box: 4043583**

CHRISTINE, young looking 43yrs, kind with lovely blue eyes. Genuine, loving. WLTM gent with GSOH, must be older than me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427491**

JANET, late 40's divorcee, own home and car looking to spice up my life with some fun. Discreet men only please, I'm not ready for a full on relationship, casual chats. **Text Only. Box: 4189331**

HELLO, I'm 58yrs and called Marie. I'm tall and seeking a man who likes to look at me. I am Black and very sensual. Call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427475**

JANE, mature blonde lady, loves jokes, countryside, driving, cosy nights in. I'm solvent and seek a gent 70+. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427473**

Men Seeking

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received. mydate24

MATURE white male, N/S, solvent, into travel and the outdoors, WLTM black female for LTR. South East. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427165**

JOHN, 59, single white male, clean shaven, 6ft2, employed, no ties, WLTM local female of similar age, with interests such as going out to the pictures, coast, places of historic interest. Virginia Water/Eggham/Staines/Slough/Bracknell sort of areas. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427435**

BLACK male, slim, 69, N/S, various interests, looking for a slim or medium build West Indian lady, 65-70, must be a N/S. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427747**

MALE, 5ft10, retired marine engineer, widower, solvent, loves the sea, boats and travelling, looking for a dark haired lady, trustworthy and easy going. Get in touch to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427521**

SINGLE bloke, 60, very discreet, genuine, looking for a lady who is looking for fun, as I am. Can travel and accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427593**

38 year old white male, medium build, 6ft tall, executive, WLTM a black female who enjoys music, bars, fine dining and fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5943968**

RICHARD, 47, medium build, blue eyes, tanned, has 2 teenage girls, likes water sports, keep fit, looking for loving, caring lady of similar age, must be slim and have a GSOH. Been hurt in the past but need someone to love. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427623**

TRUDY, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427471**

OLIVIA, very mature but young at heart lady seeks nice gent for wining, dining more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427303**

TALL slim lady 61yrs and of Irish origins. GSOH, likes travel, open minded and kind. Hoping to meet similar minded gent of any age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427307**

JULIE, 54yrs, loves life, honest, caring open minded and can be discreet when needed. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427309**

PAT, 72yrs, attractive blue-eyed lady, good for her age! Varied interests. Looking for gentleman companion. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427313**

JOAN, black lady young looking 50yrs, loves life. Call to hear more and perhaps meet up. ACA **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427317**

SINGLE bloke, 60, very discreet, genuine, looking for a lady who is looking for fun, as I am. Can travel and accommodate. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427593**

MALE, mid 50s, WLTM a mature lady for no strings relationship. Someone with whom I could wine and dine and spoil and pamper. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427405**

MALE, mid 50s, 6ft3, loves the countryside, animals, theatre, listening to a wide range of music, eating out occasionally, WLTM a lady, 60-76, with similar interests. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427403**

HANDSOME tall black male looking for female, any age, for adult fun. ACA. **Text only. Mailbox: 4171783**

CARING white male, 39, young at heart, lots to offer the right lady, loves the cinema, gym, travel, music, seeks slim, special female for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427253**

MATURE white male, N/S, solvent, into travel and the outdoors, WLTM black female for LTR. South East. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427165**

STUART, 48, single father, looking for similar minded lady of similar age. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426713**

MALE 30s, dark brown hair and dark brown eyes, N/S, into music, movies, travel, seeks slim female, 26-45, for long term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426737**

TONY, 53, looking for someone to share my life with, have great evenings together, watch TV, hold hands and enjoy fun times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426961**

WHITE male, 39, into music, movies and travel, seeking slim female, 25-45, for possible long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426229**

HORNY Henry 40, single, 6ft 1ins, athletic body, after hot sexy woman. Whatever suits us! Fantasy fetish, naughty, all sorts of sexy fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 5332850**

EASYGOING male, 5ft6, short-cropped hair, blue/green/grey eyes, looking for discreet, open minded, younger lady for fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427149**

ADVENTUROUS, easy going male, attached, looking for NSA fun with a like-minded lady. I have a good life but am looking for adventure. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426693**

MALE, 30s, looking for older woman, any age, for friendship and relationship. Sussex area. **Text only. Mailbox: 5845946**

ROY, mid 50s, very fit, very understanding, very discreet. Available for social meets and physical entertainment, or just to be friends. **Text only. Mailbox: 5443614**



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WHITE male, athletic, looking for adult fun, has hotel room or can travel, will reply. Any age. **Text only. Mailbox: 5833337**

MALE, 59, slim, 5ft10, brown hair, green eyes, caring, sensitive nature, GSOH, n/s, likes cinema, music, walks, conversation, WLTM female with similar interests. **Text only. Mailbox: 5554889**

SEPARATED father of three, 48yrs, looking for a genuine woman, 30-55. Single mums welcome. **Text only. Mailbox: 5631161**

TALL, fit, young, nice looking 60+, GSOH, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun. Text me. **Text only. Mailbox: 5798503**



SINGLE father of 3 seeking female companion/friendship, 30-50yrs old. I am 48 and self-employed. **Text only. Mailbox: 5631161**

WHITE male, 39, into music, movies and travel, seeking slim female, 25-45, for possible long-term relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426229**

JOHN ex blue coat back from Jersey, young looking 60+ fit golfer. Do u play around? Seeks no strings mutual pleasure. Must be discreet. **Text only. Mailbox: 5798503**

KIERAN, 20, tall, brown hair, blue/green eyes, slim, looking for someone who is kind, honest, loving and someone who will treat me right. If this is you text me back. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426677**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 60s, slim, discreet, WLTM easygoing lady in East Surrey for LTR. No timewasters please. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425439**

ADVENTUROUS man, looking for discreet fun with an adventurous lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426663**

Gay Seeking

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KIM, a Lesbian looking for that special someone to make me smile. I am loyal, kind, sincere and caring. Are you the one? **Text only. Mailbox: 5818492**

KAREN, 38, TV, very easy going and looking to have some fun with somebody, likes to dress up and have a bit of fun. If that appeals to you please get in touch. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427387**

MARK, 61, likes to wear high heels and stockings and be treated like a sub, very smooth, good looking, is up for anything. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427261**

GAY male, 52, seeks similar for fun and games, maybe more, age not important. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 424913**

GAY guy, seeking older mature top guy for fun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4193309**

REMEMBER: Calls cost £1.55 per minute plus your phone company's access charge. Texts cost £1.50 per message received.

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Capturing the perfect mood as portrait exhibition opens in city

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE work of some of the world's top photographers goes on show at the Beaney House of Art & Knowledge in Canterbury from this weekend.

The ever-popular Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize, organised by the National Portrait Gallery, showcases the work of some of the most talented young photographers, alongside that of established professionals, photography students and gifted amateurs.

This year's showcase, staged in the special exhibitions room of the city centre venue, features images from the 2016 competition, which attracted more than 4,000 entries, including all of the prestigious prize winners.

The top prize of £15,000 was won by Claudio Rasano for his photograph of a Johannesburg schoolboy.

Highly prestigious, the Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize was launched in 1993 and remains a hugely important platform for portrait photographers and offers an unparalleled opportunity for celebrated professionals, emerging artists and amateurs alike.

The exhibition features a diverse range of images and tells the often fascinating stories behind the creation of the works, from formal commissioned portraits to more spontaneous and intimate moments capturing friends and family. The images explore both traditional and contemporary approaches to the photographic portrait whilst capturing a range of characters, moods and locations.

Chairman of Canterbury City Council's community committee, Neil Baker, said: "We are very pleased to once again welcome this world class exhibition back to Canterbury. It is always popular with visitors to the Beaney, and we expect this year to be no different.

"We pride ourselves on showcasing the very best photography, which we are continuing through this successful and ongoing partnership with the National Portrait Gallery."

The Taylor Wessing Photographic Portrait Prize runs from July 8 to October 29. Admission is free. It forms part of this year's Canterbury Festival.



CONTENDER: Abdel by David Cantor forms part of this year's exhibition

Free outdoor cinema tickets



TICKETS for Dartford's popular outdoor cinema in Central Park are up for grabs this Monday (July 10).

The free tickets will be for ET, The Jungle Book and La La Land. See the council's website.

Oliver's debut EP release

TUNBRIDGE Wells' singer Oliver Tourle is following up a sell-out show at the town's Assembly Hall Theatre with the release of his debute solo EP - Sing.

He'll also perform a launch event for the release at the Salomons Estate on July 23 at 7pm.

Bay Rays get Create-ive



RISING Kent indie band The Bay Rays will be headlining one of the three live stages at Ashford's Create Festival on July 22.

The main stage will see ska legends The Selecter.

Roll with Oasis tribute act

THE fire and passion of the Gallagher brothers will be recreated at Ramsgate Music Hall on September 30.

Oaysis will romp through the hits of the Manchester legends, playing the likes of Wonderwall, Supersonic, Champagne Supernova and Don't Look Back In Anger.

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X Factor stars' tribute act



THE Little Mix Experience aims to recreate the magic of the all-girl chart-toppers with shows in Bromley's Churchill Theatre on August 12 and Dartford's Orchard Theatre on August 20. Tickets on sale now.

Sandwich's tasty weekend

THE Sandwich Folk & Ale Festival concludes today, after a weekend long celebration of beer and music.

More than 30 bands have been performing on stages around the town - both outdoors and in pubs. There will also be a host of Morris dancers to entertain the crowds.

Tapestry of delights



BEAUTIFUL - The Carole King Musical will visit Dartford and Canterbury next year on its first UK tour.

The Marlowe will host on March 27-31 and the Orchard on June 5-9.

Jazz at the Tower Theatre

THE Marc Cecil Quintet will be performing as part of Folkestone Jazz Club's summer line-up this Thursday (July 13).

A sell-out last team they played, they'll take the audience on a tour around the world including the salsa of Cuba, samba of Brazil and swing of New York.

Magic of the Carpenters hits the stage for Hever Festival

By Chris Britcher

chris.britcher@archant.co.uk



SHOW: A big crowd is expected to witness the award-winning performance on July 22

FOR anyone growing up in the 1970s, the music of The Carpenters will be woven into the fabric of their youth.

The brother and sister duo of Richard and Karen Carpenter enjoyed a string of smash hits and big-selling albums with their melodic pop both in their homeland of the US and here in the UK.

Among their best-loved songs are Close To You, We've Only Just Begun, Please Mr Postman and Top of the World.

Their partnership came to an abrupt halt in 1983 when Karen, aged just 32, died as a result of complications caused by her eating disorder.

But the music they created has never ceased to inspire and win over new audiences, and on July 22 an acclaimed tribute act will perform in the picturesque outdoor setting of Hever Castle.

The award-winning Carpenters Story has been described by Richard Carpenter himself as "a very accurate and faithful portrayal" and takes the audience through the duo's biggest and best known hits.

The hugely successful show started back in 1992 with a sold out performance at the London Palladium, and has since toured the UK and the world to critical acclaim and standing ovations. Pivotal to the success of the show was the discovery of Claire Furley who performs as Karen Carpenter.

Musical director Phil Aldridge explains: "Hundreds turned up to audition, all hoping to secure the role of Karen Carpenter. Claire sang just four bars of Close to You and got the job on the spot."

Her vocals are accompanied by The Carpenters Story Orchestra.

Phil Aldridge narrates the story of the brother and sister on stage.

The performance is part of the summer Hever Festival.

Tickets are £27 for reserved, covered, seating, and £17 for the grass area.

The show takes place on Saturday, July 22.

Tickets for the show can be obtained by calling 01732 866114 of through the festival's website at www.heverfestival.co.uk.



Dare you not read the benefits of daily dairy?

Steering clear of all things dairy? You may want to think again according to cookery writer Annie Bell

IN weight-watching terms, we all know now that refined sugar's the real 'enemy', and those low-fat yogurts we've been spooning down for years are crammed with sugar to replace the fat.

But with so many celebs giving up all animal products to go vegan - from Jay-Z and Beyonce to Jared Leto - we're still a little bit confused about dairy.

Cookery writer Annie Bell has an MSc in human nutrition. She splits her time between a flat in London and a 17th century farmhouse in Normandy, where the local markets are full of artisanal cheeses, and is a big advocate for dairy. She even calls it a "superfood" in her new book, The Modern Dairy.

Annie gave up dairy for several years after her mum died seven years ago - but a check-up at the doctor's turned out to be a wake-up call.

"I had this real loss of appetite and went off dairy," she recalls. "The foods I wanted to eat were soups and chicken and vegetables and nuts - I didn't think dairy mattered. It was this myth that I was going to feel better if I didn't eat dairy.

"The doctor gave me a sheet of facts about calcium and how to get it. It was such an eye-opener, that there was almost no other way of getting it, so now I make a point of eating dairy every single day.

"The truth is there is no evidence to support it being in any way harmful. It's an extraordinary food if you think about the range of nutrients it contains. It's very adaptable in terms of its macronutrient breakdown. It can be very high in protein, it might be very high in fat, but you can alter that depending on what your aims are."



AUTHOR: Annie Bell dispells the myths over daily produce

"A lot of people, if they have any kind of digestive issues, might think, 'I wonder if it's dairy, why don't I cut it out?' But even if you are lactose-intolerant, you don't have to give up dairy completely.

"Lactose is water soluble, so it's contained in the whey rather than the fat. So in the cheese-making process, if you remove the whey, you've normally removed a lot of the lactose. The problem areas are things like wet cheeses, so quark, cottage cheese, ricotta, which are high in lactose.

"But very mature cheeses, things like Parmesan, hardly have any lactose, and by turning butter into ghee, you basically remove the lactose content, which is in the milk solids. So by clarifying butter, it becomes a pure fat that you can cook with.

"I find the most helpful way of including the right amount of dairy in my daily diet is to treat it as I do my five-a-day fruit and veg, by aiming for three-a-day of different types. A bit from each fat level is probably the ideal; one low, one medium, one high, bearing in mind that their size is proportionately smaller the higher the fat."

The Modern Dairy: Nourishing Recipes Using Milk, Yogurt, Cheese And Cream by Annie Bell is published in paperback by Kyle Books, priced £16.99. Available now

Refugee art and AGM

AS part of Kent Refugee Help's 10th anniversary, the charity is holding its AGM and an art exhibition in Canterbury next Saturday, July 15.

The AGM, featuring a string of speakers, will be held at St Paul's in Church Street between 11am and 2pm. Meanwhile the exhibition will feature work from Kent, London and Syrian artists at Conquest House Gallery in Palace Street. It runs until July 29.

Watson's castle show

TENOR Russell Watson, who has sold more than seven million albums. will be performing at Tonbridge Castle tonight, as part of the Rye International Jazz & Blues Festival.

Thousands will be hoping for good weather for the outdoors picnic concert as the 'People's Tenor' performs songs from his latest album True Stories, and other favourites.

By The Sea adds stars

ORGANISERS of the By The Sea Festival at Margate's Dreamland have confirmed British Sea Power have joined the line-up over September 29 to October 1.

Already securing Everything Everything for the Friday night headline slot, Metronomy for Saturday and The Libertines on the Sunday, other acts now confirmed include Marika Hackman, HMLTD, Girl Ray, Dream Wife and the Deep Throat Choir.

Margate's Rollermania

LES McKeown's Bay City Rollers look to recreate the days of Rollermania when they take to the stage in Margate as part of a major UK tour.

The band, fronted by the group's original lead singer, will be performing at the Winter Gardens on November 4.

Grab your tartan and get ready for the all the hits including Bye Bye Baby and Shang-a-Lang.



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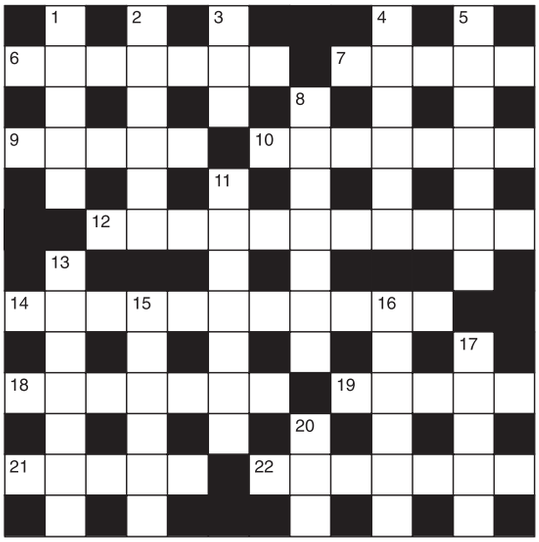






PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across

6. Vocation (7)
7. Wed (5)
9. Seat (5)
10. Friendly (7)
12. Sleight of hand (11)
14. Generosity (11)
18. Abandoned (7)
19. Beneath (5)
21. Concur (5)
22. Obtain (7)

Down

1. Flavour (5)
2. Recess (6)
3. Individual (3)
4. Haphazard (6)
5. Irregular (7)
8. Censure (7)
11. Wander (7)
13. Rubbish (7)
15. Tended (6)
16. Language (6)
17. Gay (5)
20. Expert (3)

Cryptic

Across

6. Thoroughly exhausted, but going at top speed (4,3)
7. They keep a tight hold on immoral practices (5)

9 and 4 Down. Long-faced Australian working at the cemetery (11)

10. Mule gets confused with big country (7)
12. See 3 Down
14. Supervisors accuse the workers (11)
18. Ship going round characteristic channels (7)
19. Position that keeps a learner in step (5)
21. They provide current for parts of the prison (5)
22. Bedclothes (7)

Down

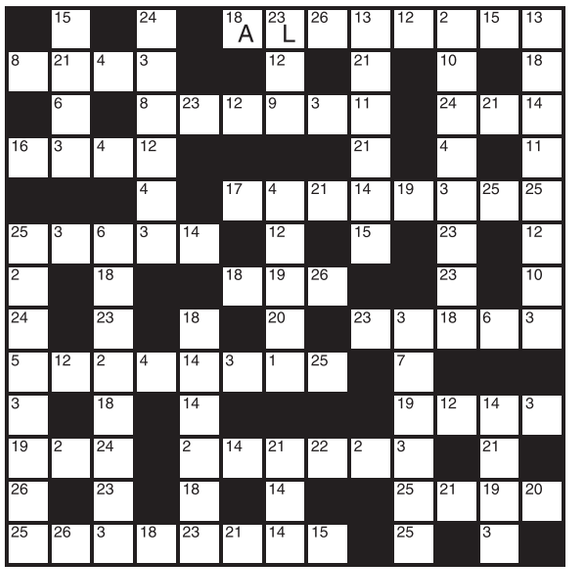
1. Could be later on the watch (5)
2. He comes from the west eventually (6)

3 and 12 Ac. Indicate one's desire to sell stock? (3,2,3,6)

4. See 9 Across.
5. Dundee's upset by what the stripper does (7)
8. Uppermost Palaeozoic rock could be produced by a miner near the top of the pit (7)
11. They provide a menace to the arts ... (7)
13. ... and break up the arts! (7)
15. Genuinely join together again in confederation (6)
16. Everybody in unhappy return to Texas location (6)
17. Come to blows for a bit (5)
20. By the sound of it, chooses a consecrated vessel (3)

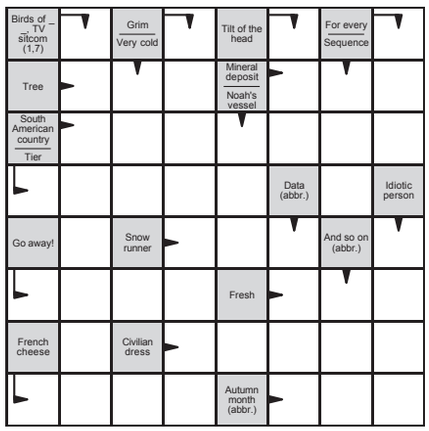
CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.





Arrowword



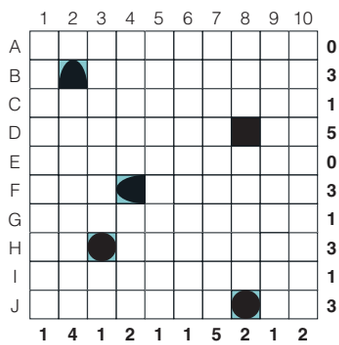
Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

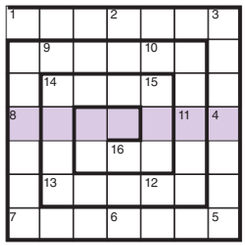
THE FLEET

1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine





Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Homeless child
2. Packed
3. Songbird
4. Retain
5. Gasp
6. Lofty
7. Garden grass
8. Back of neck
9. Deserve
10. Fingertip cover
11. Obscene
12. Plate
13. Owl's cry
14. End part
15. Bereavement
16. Ride waves

Keyword clue: An English county

SUDOKU

Hard

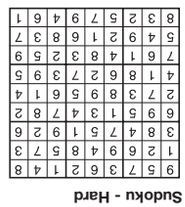
9				6		1	4	
					8			3
	8				1	9		
						7		
2	7	3				6	1	4
		8						
		1	4				5	
5			2					
	3	2		7				1

Easy

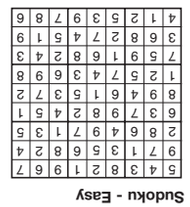
5			8				6	7
	7	1		5	6		2	
2		6			7			
			9		2	4	5	1
	9			1			7	
1	2	5		4				
			1		8			3
	6		2	7		5	1	
4	1				9			6

Solutions

Double Crossword
Cryptic
Across: 6 Flat out; 7 Vices; 9 Grave; 10 Belgium; 12 On the market; 14 Chargehands; 18 Strata; 19 Place; 21 Cells; 22 Pyjamas.
Down: 1 Alert; 2 Steven; 3 Put; 4 Digger; 5 Denudes; 8 Permian; 11 Threats; 13 Shatter; 15 Really; 16 Dallas; 17 Scrap; 20 Pyx.
Quick
Across: 6 Calling; 7 Marry; 9 Stool; 10 Cordial; 12 Legerdemain; 14 Magnanimity; 18 Aborted; 19 Under; 21 Agree; 22 Acquire.
Down: 1 Taste; 2 Alcove; 3 One; 4 Random; 5 Erratic; 8 Condemn; 11 Meander; 13 Garbage; 15 Nursed; 16 Tongue; 17 Merry; 20 Ace.
Codeword
1=Y, 2=U, 3=E, 4=R, 5=J, 6=V, 7=X, 8=F, 9=W, 10=M, 11=D, 12=O, 13=H, 14=N, 15=G, 16=Z, 17=P, 18=A, 19=C, 20=K, 21=I, 22=Q, 23=L, 24=B, 25=S, 26=T
Word Spiral
1 Wait; 2 Full; 3 Lark; 4 Keep; 5 Part; 6 Tail; 7 Lawn; 8 Nape; 9 Earn; 10 Nail; 11 Lewd; 12 Dish; 13 Hoot; 14 Tail; 15 Loss; 16 Surf.
Keyword: Norfolk



Battleships



Arrowword

Sudoku - Hard

9	5	7	3	6	2	1	4	8
1	2	6	9	4	8	5	7	3
3	8	4	7	5	1	9	2	6
5	7	3	6	2	1	4	8	9
6	9	2	1	3	4	7	5	1
8	4	7	5	9	6	2	3	5
2	6	8	4	7	9	3	1	5
4	3	5	2	1	7	6	9	8
7	1	9	8	6	3	5	4	2

Sudoku - Easy

4	1	2	5	3	9	7	8	6
3	6	8	2	7	4	5	1	9
7	5	9	1	6	8	2	4	3
1	2	5	7	4	3	6	9	8
8	9	4	6	1	5	3	7	2
6	3	7	9	8	2	4	5	1
2	8	6	4	9	7	1	3	5
9	7	1	3	5	6	8	2	4
5	4	3	8	2	1	9	6	7

Don't balk... these countries are an adventure and an education

Seven days, five countries, five hotels, 11 nationalities: **Steven Downes** played the numbers games on a remarkable tour of the Balkans.



ST JOHN CHURCH, OHRID, MACEDONIA.

If you threw the word Balkans into a word-association game, most people would probably come back with "conflict".

But the complex history of this corner of Europe makes it more, not less, attractive to me. It is just a layer: one that does these countries an injustice if visitors do not peel it back to discover what lies beneath.

Having done so, in a whistle-stop and wonderful week-long trip to Croatia, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia and Kosovo, my response to the name Balkans would be "spectacular", "rich", "beautiful" and "fascinating".

The only conflict I witnessed was between Argentina and the United States about the reclining seats on the coach! When that failed to escalate, I was able to focus on the breathtaking scenery and architecture and friendly locals.

Like the man behind the counter at a Montenegrin filling station who was convinced I was a Viking and made me down some local fire-water while looking him in the eyes.

Or the tour guide in Tirana who wore a cap with Liverpoo on it. The second 'l' had fallen off, but this was a relic of the era of communist monster Enver Hoxha and the guide would have been jailed if the cap were discovered.

Then there was the man who engaged me in conversation at a cafe in the Macedonian capital of Skopje. He was a graduate waiting around to find someone on whom he could try out his English.

Anyway, enough rambling. Was the tour actually any good? Visiting five countries in seven days sounds a bit crazy. And doing it with a collection of complete strangers from 11 different countries...risky.

It was superb, though. Kosjenka the tour guide from Croatia was knowledgeable, multi-lingual and extremely patient, the driver was skilled (which was useful as we negotiated the single-lane Montenegrin hairpins with no barriers and a 200ft sheer drop) and the connections were smooth.

Yes, we squeezed a lot in, but I like to see and learn as much as possible when I travel. I'll have plenty of time to rest when I pop my clogs. It's impossible to do a proper travelogue, so it'll have to suffice for me to say we went to medieval walled cities, capitals, towns, villages, dined on the 17th floor of the Sky Tower Hotel in Tirana, stayed in a hotel on the banks of Lake Ohrid in Macedonia, drove through valleys and gorges, across plains, negotiated borders, visited churches, museums and monasteries, ate well and made some good friends.

I think you're beginning to get that I loved it. A superb tour boiled down and barely done justice to.

I dare you to give it a go: to avoid the more predictable holiday choices and bask in the Balkans. You'll be very glad you did.

Balkans factfile

How to get there

Cosmos features a seven-night tour of the Balkans to experience its historic towns, romantic squares and incredible mountain landscapes.

Starting in the old fortified city of Dubrovnik, Croatia, the tour journeys through south east Europe, stopping in Montenegro, Albania and Macedonia.

The Discover the Balkans tour is priced from £1034pp (May 2018 departure) to include a private home pick up, return flights, seven nights half-board accommodation, guided excursions and overseas transfers.

To make a booking ring Cosmos on 0800 440 2797 or visit www.cosmos.co.uk
www.cosmos.co.uk/tours/discover-balkans/?pdep=265990






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Kent on Sunday
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Sir Julian is just plain arrogant

JULIAN Brazier's assertion that he lost the election in Canterbury "due to naive students falling for a huge bung" [KoS, last week] is naive and arrogant.

I am not a student, I am not young but I voted for Rosie Duffield because I am a Labour supporter and believe in the policies they put forward.

If Sir Julian had been polite enough to listen to the students who went to visit him at Westminster he would've understood that the main concern was not student loans.

If he had done some canvassing as the Labour Party did, he may have found the people's concerns revolved around the health service, low public-sector pay, dementia tax, schools funding and the slow but sure privatisation and demolition of public services.

There is of course too the little matter of his voting record on all of the above.

The population here in Canterbury were not naive they researched Mr Brazier's opinions and voted accordingly.

Jayne Edgar,
Canterbury

The Duff reaction starts right here

I WAS just recovering from Ray Duff's rants, I am sorry everyone but I may have woken him up [KoS, last week].

So he wants to give Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn a chance? Well he must be more deluded than I ever thought.

I would not trust Corbyn to run a corner shop let alone our country.

He only got the result he did by his manifesto of bribes which he says was fully costed; who costed it, Diane Abbott?

If he implemented such a plan the country would be bust within five years, and the unions would run rife because they own the Labour Party.

He would risk our country's security by saying he would never press the trigger if we were under attack, so what deterrent do we have, what is he going to do if missiles are on the way, phone Putin and ask if he can have a chat?

One of the great offices of state is chancellor of the exchequer, so Labour have a confessed Marxist in John McDonnell who is already calling for insurrection by telling people to march on Westminster and remove the democratically elected government.

I fear for our country if this lot ever get into power.

Michael Carr,
Ashford

LETTER OF THE WEEK



Lorry parking problem is a two way street

I READ the article you wrote in KoS concerning that the Department for Transport (DfT) introducing legislation making it easier for councils to impose more truck parking legislation.

In these times of austerity and councils looking to bring in more revenue, I am sure councils will jump at the chance to make more truck parking 'illegal' while not upsetting (in fact the opposite) local voters.

The Kent County Council promise to providing more truck parking, does not aspire much confidence, as what have they done over the last two decades, other than to sit on their backsides and do nothing as the problem grew.

Even when somebody comes along and offers to do something, they are turned down. I am thinking here of the recent case this month, of the Airport Cafe in Sellindge, near Folkestone, where it seems only one councillor voted for extra truck parking.

All HGV drivers and their operators have strictly controlled and enforced driving regulations imposed by the EU, yet the government has no legal obligation to supply the infrastructure to support the legislation and once off the motorway network, it really is a grim situation.

Combined, Dover port and Eurotunnel handle about over 4.2 million annual truck movements, so is it any wonder you find roadsides crammed with trucks?

The drivers are not driving for fun, they are delivering the goods we all demand of life 24/7, 365 days of the year, a bit of respect is needed.

What would your attitude be, if your company said it was shutting the toilets in your office and you could use the nearest field?

We need a road system 'fit-for-purpose' that benefits the whole country.

Terry Hudson
Member, Alliance of British Drivers

Corbyn would fritter our cash

RAY Duff calls for a government with Jeremy Corbyn in it or leading it - I'm not sure my pockets are deep enough.

I thought bribes to get votes was illegal, but Corbyn seemed to get away with it with the students and tuition charges.

Most of them won't pay back their loans anyway as they will fail the income threshold when they start working suggesting that they should have saved their time and gone into an apprenticeship scheme.

Does Mr Duff believe that a £1.7 trillion debt is not yet big enough that an annual service charge of £50 billion should be exceeded?

And it will be when interest rates go up should he ever get into Downing Street.

Does he run his own household accounts on debt with other people's money?

Or is he already a net beneficiary of the public purse so has no interest in such trivia?

Edward Baker,
Tunbridge Wells

Labour and Tory power dilemma

AS usual, Ray Duff skirts round the truth to support his dogma.

Labour had already closed down over 200 mines, when Maggie Thatcher came to power. But that was OK under lovely cuddly Labour.

The hard Left 'rent-a-mob' only reacted when the Tories tried to do the same.

Fast forward to the new messiah Tony Blair and his incompetent deputy Gordon Brown, who got us almost £1 trillion in debt.

Blair admitted he'd wasted his time in power and Brown sold our gold at rock bottom prices, stole our pensions, caused a housing crisis and strangled us with red tape.

Then we had David Cameron, the 'heir to Blair', another snake oil salesman, full of undeliverable promises and his chancellor, George Osborne, who got us another £1 trillion in debt and made sure the fake austerity only affected the poor, sick and needy, not the establishment and their old boys.

The country runs despite the Tory/Labour cartel, not because of it. This country could be doing so well, instead it's mired in chronic waste, incompetence and the lethargy of the 'great pretenders' in Westminster. As I said, a plague on all their houses.

Some economists are just waking up to the fact the complete dogs breakfast these great pretenders have made of our economy, of immigration, of defence, of institutions like the NHS, of all aspects of policies that affect us.

They've built a house of cards on shifting foundations, it's not a matter of if, just when.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

Vaping is key to smoking drop

SO the Kent County Council director of public health thinks the decrease in smokers is down to the policy of banning smoking in enclosed spaces? [KoS, last week].

I would like to inform him that the real reason for the decrease is vaping. The amount of people now vaping is 2.9 million and increasing all the time.

Reports need to be accurate and to give credit where it is due.

Refusing to report the beneficial aspects of vaping is unfair.

To date not one person has died from a vaping related illness, unlike smoking.

David Turner,
Sevenoaks

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AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
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3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent



Sun sets in Lamberhurst

by **Andy Coleman**

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Lake Bled Castle & Christmas Markets

Slovenia & Austria by Air from Gatwick

30 November, 2017 - Quote: XB12-KOS

Christmas time at Lake Bled, Slovenia, is just magical - framed by the snow-capped peaks of the majestic Julian Alps, Bled is a dream location. Our hotel is on the Lakeside with a Christmas market situated outside - a perfect setting for this build up to Christmas. Highlights include: lunch in Bled Castle, high above the lake with spellbinding views; the gingerbread factory in Radovljica; Ljubljana, Slovenia's charming capital with its stunning Christmas market; and Klagenfurt Christmas Market in Austria.

INCLUDED: Escorted throughout • Return flights with cabin baggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4 nights half board in a 4-star lakeside hotel in Bled • Lunch in Bled Castle • All excursions • Transfers abroad



4* Madeira Carnival

By Air from Gatwick

7 February 2018 • Quote: MC2-KOS

The Carnival of Madeira is known as one of the best in Europe. There are two main parades - the allegoric parade features thousands of participants in magnificent colourful costumes dancing to electrifying Samba music through the streets of the capital, Funchal. The second, called Trapalhao, features carnival goers in daring costumes and local caricatures. Included excursions take in the best of the island.

INCLUDED: Return flights from Gatwick to Funchal with luggage - supp't may apply • 7 nights at the 4-star Hotel Raga in Funchal • 7 breakfasts, 6 lunches and 7 dinners from the buffet, plus afternoon coffee and cake • Drinks included with lunch & dinner - aperitifs, local wine, beer, soft drinks and local spirits • Entertainment on 3 evenings • 2 half days and 1 full-day excursion • Seating for the carnival • Airport/hotel transfers in Madeira • Services of our representative in resort



Monte Carlo ATP Masters Tennis & the Italian Riviera

By Rail from Ashford or Air from Gatwick

16 April, 2018 - Quote: MM4-KOS

Join us to see the world's top tennis players at one of the world's most stunning sporting venues - Monte Carlo Country Club, which hosts the ATP Rolex Masters tournament on open air clay courts by the Mediterranean sea. We stay in a super 4-star hotel, with free drinks every night, on the Italian Riviera near Monaco. The holiday includes tennis tickets for the opening rounds, with the opportunity to view the finals, plus a visit to San Remo. Escorted travel is by direct Eurostar train from London St Pancras and Ashford to Marseilles (no train changes), continuing east along the French Riviera coast by coach to Bordighera, just over the Italian border, arriving in time for dinner and free drinks at the hotel.

INCLUDED: Escorted by rail and throughout abroad • Return rail travel London St Pancras (Ashford on request) to Marseille OR return flights to Nice with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 7 nights at the 4-star Parigi Hotel, Bordighera with 7 buffet breakfasts & 5 dinners • Free drinks at the hotel 6pm to 11pm every night - local brands of beer, wine & spirits • Excursions & transfers



Rhine in Flames Night of Bengal Fire River Cruise

By Rail or Air

30 April, 2018 - Quote: RN4-KOS

Come with us to the majestic Rhine as we cruise in the season opener - the longest stretch of any Rhine in Flames spectacle with 60 illuminated ships along a 26km stretch being led by the red fluorescent Bengal Fire. Ports of call include Andernach, Boppard, Rüdesheim, Koblenz, and Königswinter. Travel by rail or air to join the cruise in Düsseldorf. Accommodation is in comfortable twin bedded cabins with breakfast, lunch and dinner each day included as well as morning coffee and afternoon tea.

INCLUDED: Escorted rail travel from London St Pancras and Ebbsfleet to Brussels and coach transfer to Cologne OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports (supp't may apply) • 7 nights full board cruise sharing a Main Deck cabin - upgrades available • Morning coffee and afternoon tea • Buffet breakfast and lunch • Dinner served at your table • Captain's dinner • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director on board

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POWER: Renault's Mégane GT dCi 165 Auto hatch and Sport Tourer estate are powered by a 165hp twin turbo engine, the most powerful 1.6-litre diesel on the market. Pictures: Renault

Twin turbo engines help Renault dominate market

RENAULT is known for its sporty models and, ahead of the forthcoming Mégane Renault Sport hot-hatch, the mainstream range gains a dynamic new flagship.

The Mégane GT dCi 165 Auto hatchback and Sport Tourer estate's twin turbo engine is the most powerful 1.6-litre diesel on the market with 165hp and 380 Newton metres of torque.

Developed and engineered by Renault Sport, the latest addition to the GT range is aimed at drivers who like strong torque at low revs for enjoyable performance in all conditions.

The hatch is capable of 0-62mph in 8.8 seconds and 133mph, yet offers 61.4mpg combined and CO2 of 120g/km. The figures for the Sport Tourer are 8.9 seconds, 133mph, 60.1mpg and 124g/km respectively.

It also features Renault Sport-developed suspension and 4Control chassis with four-wheel steering for a safe, yet dynamic experience on twisty roads.

At up to 50mph in Sport mode, the front and rear wheels turn in opposite directions, by up to 2.7 degrees at the back, giving the GT the manoeuvrability of a shorter-wheelbase vehicle. At higher speeds the front and rear wheels steer in the same direction, turning by up to one degree at the back, for greater stability. The 4Control system calculates the angle of the rear wheels 100 times a second and adjusts them as necessary.



Ride comfort and handling has been enhanced thanks to specific springs, dampers and anti-roll bar settings by Renault Sport.

To give it a more sporty, dynamic appearance, a wider lower front air intake with a honeycomb-pattern mesh is flanked by lateral scoops while dark metal, diamond cut 18in alloy wheels and door mirror housings match the finish on the front air scoops and rear diffuser.

The hatchback is priced £27,740 with the Sport Tourer estate £29,040.

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Official fuel consumption for the ŠKODA range in mpg (litres/100km): Urban 31.0 (9.1) to 72.4 (3.9); Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4) to 88.3 (3.2), Combined 38.2 (7.4) to 80.7 (3.5). CO_2 emissions for the ŠKODA range in mpg are 170 to 90 g/km. The advertised range is correct as of 29 May 2017 and is subject to change. Standard EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results.

Alfa Romeo set to rival German giants

Stunning to look at from any angle, Alfa Romeo's new Guilia sports saloon has what it takes to steal your heart. Our motoring editor Andy Russell is smitten...

Alfa Romeo Giulia

Price: **from £29,950**

Engine tested: **1,995cc, 200hp, four-cylinder turbo petrol mated to eight-speed automatic transmission**

Performance: **0-62mph 6.6 seconds; top speed 146mph**

MPG: **Urban 33.6; extra urban 61.4; combined 47.1**

CO2 emissions: **138g/km**

Warranty: **Three years unlimited mileage**

Will it fit in the garage?: **L 4,643mm; W 2,024mm ; H 1,436mm**

ALFA Romeo, a name full of romance and racy encounters, is back to its sexy best, turning some of its best cars for decades.

The 4C sports coupe put new spark into the love affair and now the iconic Italian car-maker has upped its wooing with the Giulia sports saloon, soon to be followed by the Stelvio, its first sport utility vehicle.

Tainted and tarnished in the past a reputation for rust and unreliability, Alfa is now fighting back with models that can hold their own against prestige German brands, while competitive PCP and leasing deals help overcome fears over future values.

The Giulia is simply stunning from any angle, well proportioned with a squat, athletic stance – it's a long time since a test car attracted so many admirers.

Pitched against the likes of the BMW 3 Series, Jaguar XE, Audi A4 and Mercedes-Benz C-Class, it's certainly not outclassed and good enough to go top of the form with keen drivers.

Alfa has designed the Giulia to whisk you off your feet and woo you away from German brands.







The 150 and 180hp 2.2-litre turbo diesels will be attractive to business users but my money would go on a 2.0-litre turbo petrol – 200hp in standard Giulia and Super and 280hp in Veloce. The ultimate is the 510hp is the 510hp Bi-turbo 2.9-litre V6 Quadrifoglio supercar saloon – a wolf in sheep's clothing.

The sophisticated suspension is firm, accompanied by some tyre roar, but still composed on poor roads - a price you'll willingly pay for the fine handling.

Flicking through bends, it sticks to the road with 50/50 weight distribution and the fast-reacting, precise steering. It's so sharp to drive that at first it feels almost over responsive.

You'll take some time to find the ideal set-up for the seat and steering – once you do it's very comfortable in the supportive seats.

It's one of the best-looking Alfa fascias for a long time – not as fussy as past models and with a new-found build quality borne out by the double stitching highlights on the dash and doors. I loved the engine stop-start button on the steering wheel, while passengers in the back will like the big eyeball air vents and USB charging port.

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Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

Application for a Variation of a Premises Licence

We University of Creative Arts hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR to

1. Vary the layout of the canteen/refectory area to permit an extension to the licensed area as a result of the rationalization of office space located next to the existing canteen/refectory and
2. Permit the installation of improved toilet facilities in line with plans deposited with the council

In respect of the premises situated at Fort Pitt, Rochester, Kent ME1 1DZ and known by the sign of The University of Creative Arts

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Medway Council, Licensing Department, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during normal office hours (website address www. medway.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 10 consecutive working days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 31st July 2017.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.is £5,000.

Stephen Thomas LAW

8, Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent, ME19 5QP

Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant

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Spencer Private Hospitals are two hospitals situated in East Kent. The larger of the two hospitals is a 22 bed independent hospital situated at the QEQM Hospital in Margate, whilst the second hospital is a 4 bed independent hospital based at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. Both hospitals have a reputation for providing excellent medical and surgical facilities supported by Specialist Consultants, Specialist Nurses and Physiotherapists. We have state of the art diagnostic equipment and exceptionally high standards of nursing care.

The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Marketing Assistant – Dover

Full Time - 37.5 hours per week **Salary - £21k per annum**
Closing date: On going **Interview date: TBC**

Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE Grade C and above (or equivalent)
- Dealing with local press
- 12 months' experience working in a marketing administration environment
- Social Media marketing experience
- Motivated, with ability to work under pressure
- CMS (Content Management System)
- Hold full, clean driving license, with access to own transport

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
David Osborne on 01304 222679

Credit Controller – Dover

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week (one year Maternity Cover)
Salary - £19,400 per annum (pro rata)
Closing Date –19 July 2017 Interview Date – TBC

Qualifications and Experience

- Basic Numeracy and literacy GCSE grade C in Maths and English
- Previous experience of Credit Control environment
- AAT Level 2 (desirable)
- Experience of Healthcode and previous NHS or hospital finance team experience (desirable)

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact:
Jo Jenner, Finance Manager on 01304 222691

For job descriptions and application forms please visit our website:
www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers

Alternatively, please contact Carina Pieries, HR Assistant
Telephone: 01304 222687
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Dickson rewrites the record books

The batsman hit a stunning 318 against Northamptonshire

Cricket

By Tom Pyman

tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

SEAN Dickson rewrote the record books as he became only the second Kent batsman to make a triple century, scoring 318 against Northamptonshire in this week's County Championship Division Two clash.

Extraordinarily, however, it was only enough for a draw in a thrilling four days at Beckenham.

Dickson, 25, becomes the first player in the post-war era to pass 300 for Kent, a feat previously only achieved by Bill Ashdown in the 1930s.

His marathon innings of 318 ended on Tuesday after adding 382 with Joe Denly for the second wicket before Kent declared on 701-7.

Even at lunch, Dickson's score was the fourth highest individual innings by a Kent player and, in all, 169 runs had come in 33 overs during the morning session.

His 318 eclipses his previous first-class best of 207 not out, which came against Derbyshire last May. He also took the county's post-war record from his head coach Matt Walker, who made 275 not out against Somerset in 1996.

The club now turns its attention to the T20 Blast, as the Spitfires take on Essex Eagles on Sunday, looking to improve on a disappointing campaign last year, where Kent finished seventh in the South Group, and therefore failing to make the knock-out stages.

CEO Jamie Clifford told us: "We had a poor year in T20 but we expect to be competitive in that format this season.



HISTORY: Kent celebrate earlier this season, but now the focus shifts to the fast-faced Twenty20 competition Pictures: ADY KERRY

"We're still licking our wounds a bit from last season, finishing second [in the county championship] the one year when the second spot isn't enough, but we feel we're capable of being in Division One – we've got a good group of players.

"We're ambitious in all formats, we've got a new head coach, a new assistant coach, a relatively new captain and a young, developing, enthusiastic side who are desperate for success.

"If you look at the number of games they've played now, they're getting to the stage where they're experienced county cricketers so they'll want to be delivering some silverware."

Gillingham squad make early preparations

Football

THE Gillingham squad returned to Kent this week as pre-season training stepped up a notch.

The players had spent the previous week in Ireland at an intense fitness camp but were back at Beechings Cross on Monday as preparations for the new League One campaign began.

Ady Pennock, Jamie Day, Steve Lovell, Mark Patterson, Glen Johnson, director of football Peter Taylor and chairman Paul Scally were all in attendance as the players went through their first session.

All members of the squad, including new recruits Tom Eaves and Conor Wilkinson, completed the session without any serious problems and the coaching staff will now begin to prepare the team for upcoming pre-season friendlies.



BOSS: Ady Pennock

They will need to do so without former League One player of the season, Bradley Dack, however, who ended months of speculation by departing Priestfield for Blackburn Rovers last month.

Speaking after training Pennock said: "It was a good session; our week away has certainly helped team spirit.

"Everyone is very together, fitness levels are good and we'll progressively increase the itensity of training as the days go by."

Pennock will be hoping to improve on last season's showing, where his side narrowly avoided relegation on the final day of the season.

The Gills kick off their league campaign away at Doncaster Rovers on August 5, before welcoming Bradford City the following weekend.

Sport Shorts

» Email the sports desk editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

Gemili not guaranteed place at world champs

ADAM Gemili's hopes of individual selection for next month's World Championships in London were left hanging by a thread after he trailed in sixth in the men's 200m final at the British trials in Birmingham on Sunday.

Nethaneel Mitchell-Blake and Danny Talbot claimed the two automatic qualification places up for grabs while fourth-placed Zharnel Hughes is in pole position to take the third discretionary place.

Dartford sprinter Gemili refused to blame a thigh strain for his performance, and said he would still target improvements in the weeks ahead in the hope his past successes could count for something.

He said: "That's nowhere near my standard - I didn't come in and execute a good race at all. I'm not fit and where I need to be at the moment but I had to race here and I gave it my best shot.

"I have to put forward my case based on my history but at the moment I've got a lot of work to do."



DOUBT: Adam Gemili



FAST: The Mini Challenge will be the headline big race

Mini madness as big crowds flock to Brands

THEY may be small but they pack a hell of a punch and this weekend Brands Hatch will be alive with the sound of the iconic Mini taking to its track.

The Mini Festival takes place on Saturday and Sunday with two days of fast and frenetic action headlined by the Mini Challenge - billed as the UK's 'fastest tin top series outside the British Touring Car Championship'.

In addition, there will be a variety of races for classic Minis too, with countless machines based on the original iconic design appearing in several classes, including the Mini De7ens and Mini Miglias.

Off the track, the crowds will be entertained with car club displays, show and shine competitions, trade stands, and an Italian Job-themed stunt show.

Onyemah returns to the Darts

DARTFORD confirmed the return of defender Mark Onyemah on Friday, as he returned to the club on a permanent basis.

He spent the 2015/16 season as Princes Park on loan from Luton Town.

After leaving Luton, he split his duties last season first with Concord Rangers and then helping Thurrock win promotion via the play-offs.

Darts boss Tony Burman said he viewed him as a great addition to his team as he prepares for the upcoming season and is keen to get the best out of him.

He said: "I am delighted to have brought Mark back to sign for us on a permanent basis, he obviously fills the void for the left back position. Mark is a physical young 21- year-old player who I feel is an excellent prospect and will have a chance here to show his true potential. I am going to look forward to the challenge of making him a better player."



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